

THE TIMES



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TUESDAY MAY 21 1996

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Loans to be repaid over 20 years

Labour aims to levy tax on graduates

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GRADUATES would have to pay back at least £12,000 for the cost of their university education over 20 years under a Labour government, it will be announced today.

The scheme, which marks the end of the party's commitment to free higher education, would replace the existing hybrid system of grants, loans and parental help to maintain students at university. Tuition would remain free.

Students would have to pay considerably more than they do now, but repayments — which would be made through national insurance contributions and increase in line with salaries — would be spread over a much longer period.

Both main parties have now accepted that the present system cannot continue, although the Conservatives will not put forward detailed proposals until Sir Ron Dearing reports on higher education funding after the general election.

Labour's proposals, contained in a paper called *Life-long Learning*, are being published after years of bitter infighting within the Labour Party over whether students should contribute to the costs of university education. Two years ago Jeff Rooker, a former higher education spokesman, was sacked from the frontbench after drawing up a paper supporting student charges.

But now the move is expected to receive broad support as the only way to fund the surge in higher education — the number of students has almost doubled in the past eight years. And while Tony Blair has been wary about the electoral consequences of revamping the student loans scheme, he will argue that it is one of the "hard choices" new Labour has to make.

David Blunkett, the Shadow

Education Secretary who will unveil the programme today, argues that it will allow more pupils from poorer and middle-income backgrounds to go on to higher education, because they will no longer be as reliant on parental contributions. At the moment 60 per cent of the upper and middle social classes go to university although they represent only 25 per cent of the population; only 10 per cent of the lowest social groupings do so.

The proposals are also designed to end the present situation where thousands of students get into debt.

At present, undergraduates may borrow up to £1,400 a year (£1,600 in London) from the student loan organisation, which they repay in monthly instalments over five years once their salaries reach 85 per cent of the average wage, about £13,000 to £14,000. Some are also entitled to grants of up to £1,800 (£2,300 in London), depending on their parents' income and many also rely on further financial help from home.

But many graduates have been unable to repay their loans and that has led to the virtual collapse of the Government's Student Loans Company.

Labour now plans to lend students at least £3,200 a year (£4,000 in London) and would expect them to pay back the sum over about twenty years. The party also wants to raise the starting salary for repayments, but it has not been decided to what level. It hopes that the Dearing Commission will advise a sum when it reports in September 1997.

Labour is also considering extending loans, at present confined to full-time students, to those on part-time courses and postgraduate education. However, it concedes that

Pupil selection, page 2

Sinn Fein 'ready to fall in line'

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS said last night that Sinn Fein was prepared to sign up to the six principles of non-violence that were outlined by George Mitchell in his report on the terrorists' weapons.

But the Sinn Fein president immediately lowered hopes of a fresh IRA ceasefire when he said he had no idea whether the organisation would end its present bombing campaign.

His comments fuelled speculation that Sinn Fein is trying to distance itself from the IRA in an attempt to put pressure on the Government to allow it to join peace talks without an IRA ceasefire. Some commentators believe that even if the IRA fails to declare a truce, Sinn Fein will say that it has

met the criteria for joining the talks because it is totally separate from the IRA.

The Northern Ireland Office welcomed Mr Adams's commitment that he would accept the Mitchell principles. However, a spokesman insisted that the IRA must declare an "unequivocal restoration" of its 1994 ceasefire before Sinn Fein could join the all-party talks on June 10.

In an interview with BBC Northern Ireland, Mr Adams said he would endorse the Mitchell principles if Britain agreed to hold proper all-party talks.

The principles call for the "total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations" and call on political parties to renounce violence. He said: "I'll sign up to the Mitchell principles provided everybody is doing it and they are within

the context of proper all-party talks. All of those issues are within Sinn Fein's public policy." He insisted that John Major would also have to sign up to the principles, given the history of British repression in Ireland.

Mr Adams dampened speculation about a renewed IRA truce when he said that no-one knew what the IRA would do.

Pressed on whether the IRA would end its campaign, he said: "We are not the IRA."

Ministers have made clear that they will not countenance any distinction between Sinn Fein and the IRA. Mr Major had said it was a "laughable fiction" to suggest that they were separate organisations.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, also rejected any suggestion that the two organisations were distinct.

Kelly to be named Liverpool archbishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE POPE will announce today that the Bishop of Salford, the Right Rev Patrick Kelly, is to be the new Archbishop of Liverpool.

Bishop of Liverpool, Bishop Kelly, the favourite of the Roman Catholic Church's conservative wing, will succeed Derek Worlock, who died of cancer earlier this year.

At 57, Lancashire-born Bishop Kelly is one of the most respected theologians in the Church, with a special expertise in liturgy. He is said to be amused by wits in the diocese who have been saying that he did not want the job because he did not wish to be known as "His Grace Kelly".

Bishop Kelly is considered more urbane and approachable than his predecessor. He has a lively sense of humour and is much loved in his present diocese.

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Cannes showers awards on British film-maker

By DALVA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MIKE LEIGH, one of Britain's most admired writer-directors, was showered with awards at the Cannes Film Festival last night.

Secrets & Lies, his £3 million film about a black girl's search for her natural mother, won the coveted Palme d'Or Prize.

It also picked up the international critics' award for top film, and one of its lead characters, Britain's Brenda Blethyn, won the Grand Jury's vote as best actress.

She plays a woman traumatised by being reunited with the daughter she gave away at birth and who calls everyone "sweetheart, darling". Accepting her award at last night's glitzy ceremony, she slipped back into char-

acter: "Cor, this is living ain't it?" "It's fantastic," Mr Leigh exclaimed. "I love my film and love watching it." The director, who focuses on the family and relationships against an urban background, spoke of being flattered to hear that *Secrets & Lies* had been making men cry.

Receiving his award from Anjelica Huston, the actress-director, he said he had "gone through hell" to make the

film. "But I enjoyed every minute of it."

He said his award would encourage

"anyone making a film about real life, caring, passion — the things that matter".

David Cronenberg's version of J G Ballard's 1970 cult book, *Crash*, won a special prize, despite controversy over its violence and sexual content.

Geoff Brown, page 35

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Bald truth about Pendry's patchy performance

MICHAEL FABRICANT (C, Mid Staffs) knows a lot of words but sometimes has difficulty in using them. Meaning to be helpful yesterday, he chipped in after a question to the Heritage Secretary about television transmitters in Wales, from Cymog Dafis (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire N). Mr Fabricant had advice on what you or I might call the Welsh landscape, but he solemnly called it "the topology of the Principality".

"Ooh!" chorused MPs in mock admiration, like a *Blind Date* studio audience. But wasn't their admiration misplaced? *Topology?* *Topography?* surely?

We fell to wondering what

topology does mean. Speculating that it might mean the study of the top, I stared down aimlessly at the top of Tom Pendry's head.

Mr Pendry (Stalybridge and Hyde) is a spokesman on sport in Labour's Heritage team. Sitting, as he does, below me and a few yards in front, I have a view enjoyed by few outside the bird world of his bald patch. It is perfectly round and wonderfully smooth, just like that of the Heritage spokesman Mark Fisher. Is this monkish look a precondition for speaking for the Opposition on heritage?

But why only when he said "silly"? Unable to see the front of Mr Pendry's head without crossing the gallery and losing sight of the back, I can only guess. I believe it is when he raises his eyebrows that the skin ridges at the back



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



question," he sneered at Sports Minister Iain Spratt, and each time he said "silly", the skin around the back of his bald patch wrinkled. It wriggled in tiny waves, like ripples along one bank of a pond: an eyeless scowl on the top of his head.

But why only when he said "silly"? Unable to see the front of Mr Pendry's head without crossing the gallery and losing sight of the back, I can only guess. I believe it is when he raises his eyebrows that the skin ridges at the back

of his head. It takes up the slack. Thus were the Andes raised, millions of years ago, by a moving plate on the globe's pate.

For the next Heritage Questions I have arranged for a colleague whose view is of the front of Mr Pendry's head to signal when he raises his eyebrows. Short of a system of mirrors this is the only way to check whether the phenomena are simultaneous.

But, as the philosopher David Hume taught us, where two events occur together, we

can never know which causes which. We should not assume that it is the raising of Mr Pendry's eyebrows which is causing the ridging of the back of his bald patch.

It may be the other way round. The arena on which Mr Pendry's emotional life is played out may be the bald patch: he may be snarling with his scalp. It could be this which is rugging his eyebrows helplessly around — that famous Pendry quizzical look no more than what Mr Fabricant would call an epiphomenon, if he could get it right.

If this is the case then the television cameras are positioned wrongly, relaying surface movements on the part of Mr Pendry's head with the

eyes, nose and mouth in it instead of zooming in on what — as you, readers, and I are among the first to realise — may be the seat of an MP's passions: the bald patch on the top of his head.

"We want baldy justice!" shouted Dennis Skinner (L. Bolsover), ten minutes later. His fellow heckler Andrew Mackinlay, the Beast of Thurrock, was demanding of ministers that judges break with tradition and abandon their wigs. Mr Mackinlay's question was signalled on the Order Paper. Moments before I saw an MP, one whom sketchwriters have long suspected of wearing a wig, eye Skinner — and slip prudently from the Chamber.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Railtrack investors make instant profit

Railtrack investors were sitting on instant profits of up to £150 last night as shares in the company soared by 30% on their first day of trading on the stock market.

City concerns about the Labour threat to Railtrack's profits were cast aside in heavy dealing. After opening at 190p the shares rose quickly to a peak of 227½p before closing at 220½p. About 9 per cent of the 665,000 small investors who applied for shares had sold out by the end of the day. "The view in the City is that this is two fingers stuck at the Labour Party," one senior market source said.

Ministers said they were delighted by the response to the sale, which restores private ownership of Britain's railways and stations after 50 years of state control. However, Labour insisted that the flotation had been less successful than those of the Eighties. Business, pages 25, 26, 27, 28

Sudan envoys expelled

Britain ordered the expulsion of three Sudanese diplomats, including a senior envoy, in keeping with United Nations sanctions over Sudan's support for terrorism. The Sudanese Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office and told that the diplomats must leave within a month. The remaining 12 face restrictions requiring them to give notice of any trips outside London. The Sudanese Embassy in London had no comment. Britain, which has seven diplomats in Khartoum, is awaiting retaliatory action.

Strike ballot for pilots

British Airways flights could be grounded in July by a pilots' strike. The pilots' union, Balpa, is to ballot its 3,000 BA members on a pay and productivity package. BA yesterday announced record pre-tax profits of £58 million last year and said that its 56,000 staff were to share a £54 million bonus for helping to make the airline the most profitable in the world. The bonus, boosted by 20 per cent if taken in company shares, will be worth £5,000 to some pilots.

Efficiency drive, page 25

Transsexual fights RAF

A transsexual former RAF technician was granted leave to apply for a judicial review of the Ministry of Defence's decision to sack her. The 26-year-old woman, who joined the RAF as a man in 1990 and was dismissed in 1993, is challenging the legality of the MoD policy which bars from the forces anyone who has had a sex-change operation. Ms Justice Buxton said in the High Court that the case raised questions which should be argued before a full hearing.

Couple shot in head

A British woman and her French husband, whose bodies were found at the weekend in the boot of their car at the bottom of a canal in Alsace, eastern France, were shot in the head, post-mortem examinations have shown. French police said yesterday that Alain and Angela Hay, car dealers who lived in the Channel port of Le Havre, may have been killed in connection with the lucrative cross-border trade in luxury cars.

Grilling for Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce may have to redesign its radiator grille under European Union proposals aimed at improving safety for pedestrians in low-speed collisions. A draft directive, which is strongly opposed by car makers, would force all new cars from 2003 to have a smooth contoured front and bonnet. Luxury marques including Rolls-Royce would not meet the directive. Tests have shown that the regulations could save 70 lives a year in Britain and 700 across Europe.

Robber awarded £1,000

A robber has been awarded £1,000 compensation for being kept in prison five days too long. Andrew Mason, 24, sentenced to two years by Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court for beating a disabled pensioner, should have been released on October 1, 1994, with maximum remission after completing half his term. Due to a clerical error, he remained in Swanscombe prison until October 6. The Home Office gave him £1,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

Kirov at the Coliseum

The Kirov Ballet is to perform at the London Coliseum for the first time at Christmas in a rechoreographed revival of one of their most famous productions, *The Nutcracker*, last seen in the 1990s. Their three-week season is among highlights of a 1996-97 programme announced yesterday by English National Opera. Other dancer partnerships include a staging by the American Mark Morris Dance Group of Handel's *L'Allegro* with ENO musicians and singers.

Man hacked to death

A former professional footballer was hacked to death by a 30-strong gang in a bloody feud between doormen, police said yesterday. Stephen Cole, a former Liverpool reserves player, was hunted down by the gang armed with baseball bats, knives and machetes who roamed the neighbourhood in a convoy of up to a dozen cars. They burst into a crowded pub in Fazakerley and attacked Mr Cole, 37, in spite of his wife Lorraine's attempts to intervene.

Jon Pertwee dies at 76

Jon Pertwee, the character actor best known as the third Dr Who, has died while on holiday in America. Pertwee, who was 76, died of a heart attack in his sleep while staying with his German-born second wife, Ingeborg, in Connecticut. During a career spanning 60 years he will be best remembered as the most stylishly dressed Dr Who and as the scarecrow character Worzel Gummidge. This year he had toured in a one-man theatre show. Obituary, page 19

Nesting birds need feed

Garden owners should go on putting out peanuts, sunflower seeds and other food for birds throughout the summer, the British Trust for Ornithology said. The advice is based on new research showing that an artificial food supply increases the chances of a successful nesting season. This overturns the previous orthodoxy that nuts and seeds should not be put out during nesting because of the danger that chicks might choke on them.

Former treasurer urges Conservatives to return 'dubious' Nadir donation

Labour calls for Nolan inquiry on Tory party funding

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



McAlpine remarks were played down by party

donations to the Tories, at Prime Minister's Question Time today. John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, said yesterday that the case for the Tories to open their party books to public scrutiny was now "unanswerable".

Downing Street was standing firm last night. One official said: "It is not in Lord Nolan's remit to investigate these allegations. There has already been a Home Affairs Select Committee report on the issue."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, has ordered an investigation into the newspaper allegations that the party had received more than £100,000 from the Serb businessman.

He emphasised that he had no reason to believe there had been impropriety. Mr Kennedy, who runs a consultancy specialising in political research, has dis-

missed the allegations as "fantastic nonsense". He said: "I have not raised any amount, either in total or in part."

The businessman, through his lawyers Peter Carter-Ruck has also denied the reports. "Our client is outraged by any suggestion that he is linked in any way to Radovan Karadzic or the Bosnian Serbs."

Lord McAlpine, a critic of Mr Major's administration, said: "At the time we took the donation from Asil Nadir, he was regarded as one of Britain's leading businessmen. He had just won the Queen's Award for Industry. Subsequently he turned out to be rather a bad lot. It seems as if the money that we took was dubious. Personally, I would have given it back," he told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*.

But Conservative Central Office officials played down the intervention of Lord McAlpine, saying: "We are surprised that Lord McAlpine raises these issues now because he has never raised them when he still had strong personal connections with Conservative Central Office."

Mr Prescott said: "As things stand, a multi-million pound Tory [election] campaign is being funded from secret sources. We have no idea what promises the Tories have given to foreign donors in return for the money. The time has come for John Major to reverse his previous decision to deny Nolan the opportunity to investigate party funding."

Letters, page 17



John Kennedy with Princess Lavinia of Yugoslavia, a gossip-column favourite

Kissinger of Yugoslavia who played the royal card

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN KENNEDY, a distant kinsman of the exiled Yugoslav royal family, has relentlessly exploited his blue blood connections since his Surrey schooldays. He was dubbed Crown Prince of Suburb Croatia by friends in the Greater London Young Conservatives because of his tendency to mention his royal forebears.

Mr Kennedy was born in Belgrade with the name Kennedy, his British mother's maiden name. He came to England as a baby.

Mr Kennedy, 30, is engaged to Princess Lavinia of Yugoslavia whose father, Prince Andrej, was third in line to his country's throne. He helped to organise a high-profile visit to Belgrade by the exiled members of the family in 1991.

In 1994, his rise up the ladder continued when he became equerry and private secretary to Prince Michael of Kent. In January 1995 he was arrested for allegedly trying to blackmail a member of the exiled Libyan Royal Family.

Charges were never brought and he maintains that he was smeared by MI5.

His links with Radovan Karadzic and Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian leaders, were extensive. He has had many meetings with both and organised a visit to London by Dr Karadzic. He was also a paid consultant to a firm of political lobbyists, IGA, which acted for the Serbian Government until the imposition of

sanctions. Mr Kennedy's political connections, knowledge of his former homeland, and ability to act as an interpreter made him a prize catch for Dr Karadzic.

In 1992 Dr Karadzic described Mr Kennedy as the "Kissinger of Yugoslavia" for his peace efforts between the warring factions. He is referred to as Senator Kennedy in the Serbian press. Mr Kennedy has had no contact with Dr Karadzic since he was accused of war crimes.

Princess Lavinia, 30, a gossip-column favourite, has been a big success on the doorsteps of Halewood and Rowley Regis, in the West Midlands, which Mr Kennedy will fight at the next election. The constituency has a 50% Tory majority of 15,500.

Redwood supports rebels on media

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD stepped down from an internal Tory debate last night to support two ministerial aides who may be forced to resign today.

Peter Atkinson and John Whittingdale, both parliamentary private secretaries, have threatened to vote against provisions in the Broadcasting Bill.

They have signed an amendment calling for the Government to abandon plans to prevent groups with more than 20 per cent of national newspaper circulation from investing in Channel 5 or independent television. The rules would affect Mirror Newspapers and News International, which owns *The Times* and three other national newspapers.

Mr Atkinson and Mr Whittingdale were strongly supported by Mr Redwood, the former Conservative leadership challenger. He said that he had already told the National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, of his reservations about the Bill, although he was not threatening the Government.

Mr Atkinson and Mr Whittingdale argue that the limit should be replaced with rules allowing cross-media ownership unless it is against the public interest. If they do not back the Government position in the committee vote, they would be expected to resign from their PPS positions.

Mr Atkinson is PPS to the Foreign Office ministers Jeremy Hanley, David Davis and Sir Nicholas Ranson. Mr Whittingdale is PPS to the Education and Employment ministers Eric Forth and Lord Henley.

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One Nation Dorrell stakes claim to centre ground

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

STEPHEN DORRELL laid claim to the Tory centre ground yesterday in a speech asserting that Lady Thatcher was a One Nation Tory and rejecting the prescriptions of left-wing parties to meet people's fears about economic insecurity.

In remarks that confirmed the Health Secretary's shift to the Right away from his former position as one

of the leading figures on the Left, Mr Dorrell daringly invoked Thatcherism to dismiss the attempts of Tony Blair to secure the One Nation mantle.

Mr Dorrell's speech to the Tory Reform Group in London was immediately seen by Conservative MPs last night as putting down a marker for any future leadership contest. Michael Howard's fierce attack last Friday on the European Court of Justice and his call for powers to be epatriated from Brussels was seen in a similar light.

and has undoubtedly strengthened his support on the Euro-sceptic Right.

The flurry of philosophical speeches from senior Cabinet ministers led Labour to claim last night that a Tory leadership contest was under way. Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said Mr Dorrell "is trying to be the unity candidate and making a fool of himself".

But it was Mr Dorrell's attempt to bridge the Tories' divide on welfare and Europe that most caught the eye of

senior Conservatives. He said the obligation to support those who were unable to support themselves was one that every Conservative would acknowledge, but the increasing size of the social security budget raised questions that could not be dodged.

In words that would also have pleased the Right, Mr Dorrell underlined the concept of nationhood, which he said was at the heart of Conservative political tradition, and called for a "Europe à la carte" as an assertion of

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Air crash nurse hailed a heroine for saving doctor

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A NURSE who staggered from the wreckage of an air ambulance to rescue a severely injured doctor was praised as a heroine yesterday as accident investigators began an inquiry into the crash.

After surviving the impact and raising the alarm at a house nearby, Maureen Polson, 27, returned to the scene close to Tingwall air-strip in Shetland to pull Gerald Freshwater, 47, clear of the aircraft which was in danger of catching fire.

Dr Freshwater, a consultant anaesthetist from Lerwick, received severe chest injuries, and was on a ventilator in a serious condition last night. He was operated on for several hours at the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick before being transferred by air ambulance to Glasgow's Royal Infirmary.

The pilot, Alan Young, 37, from Goff, Shetland, was killed instantly when his eight seater Britten-Norman Islander, operated by Loganair, crashed in atrocious weather.

The bruised and severely shocked nurse, from the Isle of Whalsay, was "very, very

brave", said her boss, Derek Cox, a public health director, who also praised ambulance men and paramedics. "She lifted debris off Dr Freshwater, undid his seat belt and got him away from danger."

The aircraft had taken an injured oil platform worker to hospital in Inverness and was returning to Lerwick when it crashed shortly before 1.00am yesterday. It is the first fatal crash involving an air ambulance in more than 30 years.

Witnesses said the aircraft was attempting to land at Tingwall when it crashed into farmland half a mile from the end of the runway.

The aircraft is reported to have been making its second attempt at landing. The pilot may have wanted to check for gusts of crosswind over the runway, before attempting a landing. He then flew south for a mile until he was over the north end of Tingwall Loch, and appears to have turned west to make another circuit of the airfield.

As the plane turned, the blustery south-easterly wind, with gusts of up to Force 8, was on its tail. The aircraft lost height when it should have

been climbing and, instead of flying above electricity lines on the gently sloping hillside, it headed under the wires.

Skid marks on the grass show where the aircraft's nosewheel struck the ground. Traveling at up to 100 mph, its undercarriage hit a post-and-wire farm fence, flattening it and toppling the aircraft forwards and sideways. It smashed into an electricity pole, ploughed through another fence and cartwheeled across a 3ft-deep ditch before skidding to a halt.

The Britten-Norman Islander, believed to be about 20 years old, had flown inter-island flights in Shetland and Orkney for almost 30 years and is regarded as one of the safest of all small aircraft.

Scott Grier, managing director of Loganair, said: "Alan Young was a fine young man. We are all very sad at the loss of a colleague and very distressed for Mrs Young."

Mr Grier said Loganair would carry out its own investigation. "We are trying to establish all the facts.

The weather was windy and wet, but it was typical Shetland weather and our pilots are experienced in such conditions."

Councillor Jim Irvine said the whole of Shetland had been shocked by the accident. "Dr Freshwater is a very popular doctor. Everyone will be tremendously shocked by this."

Linda Freshwater, the doctor's wife, who is a former theatre sister, said: "I am used to seeing people connected to tubes, but it is obviously different when it is someone so close to you." The couple have two children, Eleanor, 21, and Edward, 19, who are both at Coventry University.



The wreckage of the Islander air ambulance that crashed in Shetland. The pilot was killed instantly

Boy accused of killing 'enjoyed being bad'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY of 10 who dropped a piece of concrete from the roof of a 12-storey block of flats, killing a pensioner, later told police that it was fun to be bad, a court heard yesterday.

The jury at Leeds Crown Court was told that one of its tasks was to decide whether the boy, who cannot be named, knew he was doing wrong. He has denied the manslaughter of Edna Condie, 74, who was hit by the 19lb coping stone as she entered the block of flats in Kirkstall, Leeds, last August.

As Michael Harrison, QC, outlined the case, the boy sat between his mother and a social worker at the back of the court, dressed in a hooded top and jeans. Mr Harrison claimed the defendant knew it was wrong to throw things from the roof, as he had been in trouble before after smashing a bus window.

Mr Harrison said the boy was one of a group that had persuaded a woman to let them into the building and had made their way to the roof. "One of the children claimed one of his friends had warned the boy not to throw the stone, but he had replied, 'Watch me and see.' He then threw it off."

Police arrested the defendant at his home. Mr Harrison said: "When asked by police if he thought throwing things from the roof was fun, the defendant said 'Yes'. When asked why it was fun, he said he didn't know. When asked if it was fun being bad, the defendant replied 'Yes' and said it wasn't fun being good."

The hearing continues.

WPC loses case

Continued from page 1 service at Holbeck station. She claimed the final straw had come when one of the three, PC Dean Mountain, 30, Sergeant Paul Fountain, 30, and Detective Sergeant Ian Devey, 32, and the West Yorkshire police. It also dismissed her claim of victimisation by the force and her allegations of a criminal conspiracy among the officers to pervert the course of justice.

Tony Simpson, the tribunal chairman, said they had reached a decision that none of the respondents discriminated against her on the grounds of her sex. "As none of the allegations were found to be substantiated on the balance of probabilities, it is not necessary for the tribunal to consider any allegations against the first respondent, the West Yorkshire police."

WPC Wade had complained that the Police Federation, the junior ranks' union, had chosen to support the three officers against her allegations. She had been represented free of charge by Maureen Baker, who lectures West Yorkshire police on racial and sexual



The three officers, from left, PC Mountain, Sgt Fountain and Sgt Devey, who were exonerated

Rocky moment for minister on whether to roll with Oasis

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ROCK fans may be about to present Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, with the most difficult decision of his career. Eighty thousand tickets have been sold for two Oasis concerts in a conservation area, before planning permission has been granted.

The final go-head could rest with Mr Forsyth. If he says no to the performances on Loch Lomondside, it could cost his party a large chunk of the youth vote. If he says yes, he risks upsetting rural voters

near his Stirling constituency, where his majority is 703.

The concerts at Balloch country park on August 3 and 4 sold out ten days ago. A temporary campsite is being established and a regular site has been block-booked by Dutch and Austrian fans.

Opponents among local residents point out that the village has just one public lavatory, and there are fears that the wildlife haven may be badly damaged. Residents have until tomorrow to voice complaints to West Dunbartonshire Council, which

stands to gain £70,000 from the concerts.

The planning committee will decide on the fate of the concerts on June 5. A council spokeswoman said that the issue could be referred to Mr Forsyth under one of his own directives, stating that conflicts of interest on planning consent must go to the Scottish Office.

The concert promoters, Regular Music of Edinburgh, pointed out that the council had already agreed to let the park and said it would be perverse to deny permission.



Jane Asher and the Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, admiring a rose launched to mark the 900th anniversary of Norwich Cathedral

Warm welcome for Queen at Chelsea show

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE QUEEN toured the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday evening in bright sunshine. The more clement weather came as a relief to exhibitors who had fought through a cold, dark spring, and who feared at the weekend that high winds might blow their great

marquees down. The Queen found the weather pleasant enough for an open-air stroll and toured the outside gardens first.

"That isn't very pretty," she said, indicating a bespectacled iron mask with ram's horns used as a decorative centrepiece in a "globetrotters" garden designed by students of

Ashham Bryan College, near York. It is to be hoped her ancestors did not share this opinion. The item was a copy of a helmet given to Henry VIII by the Emperor Maximilian and now in the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

The exhibitors are still wondering, though, what the British climate will throw at them next, and there is

gloomy agreement that it is likely to be a summer of drought. The Chelsea show has four miles of water pipes and a copious supply from 20,000-gallon tanks. Few horticulturalists expect such bounty to be available to the nation's gardeners this summer.

Show report page 18

1 OLIVER - THIS STUFF HAS TO GO TO RILEY'S IMMEDIATELY.

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road

Two beers on ferry may cost drivers £4,000 French fine

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of British holidaymakers risk being fined or jailed for drink-driving this summer because they are unaware that the French alcohol limit has been cut, the AA said yesterday.

The new limit of 50 millilitres of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood compares with 80mg in Britain, and is the equivalent of two units of alcohol. For most drivers this means that two glasses of wine or two small bottles of French beer on a Channel ferry will be enough to put them over the limit on the other side.

With three million motorists expected to cross the Channel during the peak holiday season, there are fears that Britons will become targets for French police monitoring roads to the ports and the main holiday resorts.

French police can breathalyse drivers at random. Drivers who test positive face fines of up to £4,000 for alcohol levels between 50mg and

80mg. Higher levels carry a maximum penalty of two years in prison. Licences are confiscated, and drivers would have to reapply when they return to Britain.

The new limit was introduced last autumn, but motoring organisations believe few British drivers have heard of it. Andrew Howard, head of road safety at the AA, said: "There are a lot of people who don't realise the change. Britons who start their holiday with a few drinks on the ferry could easily put themselves over the limit for driving in France. The rule is simple: if you are driving, don't drink any alcohol."

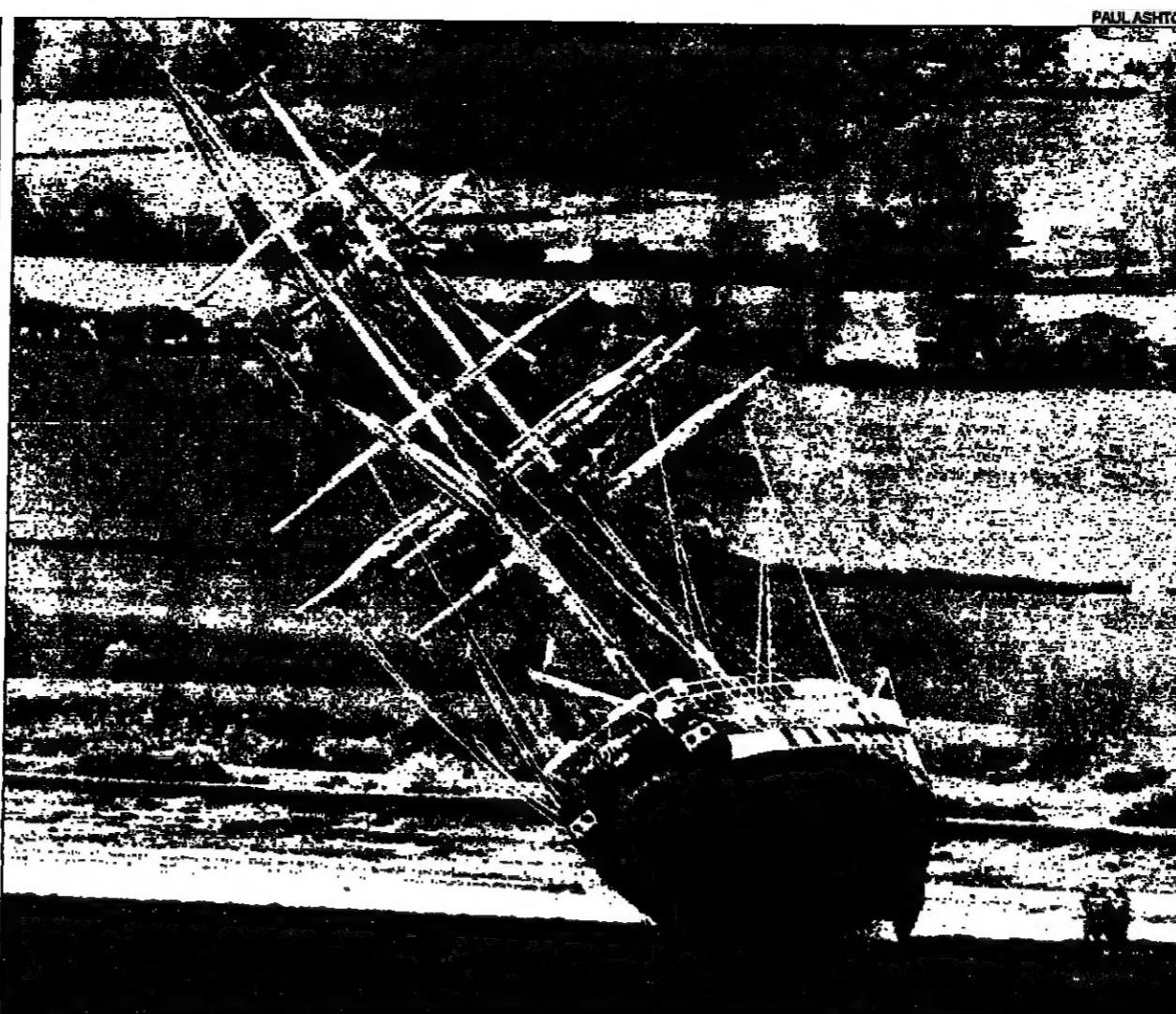
Doug Mathieson, treasurer of the Association of British Travel Operators in France, said operators should remind clients of the new limit when they make their bookings and highlight it on travel documentation.

There have been two cuts in the French drink-driving limit

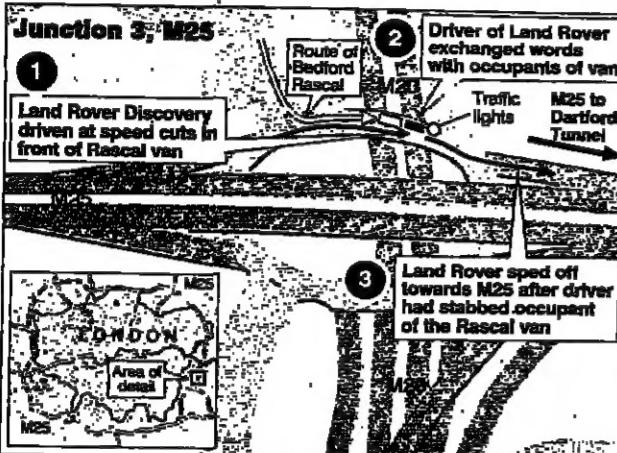
over the past two years in response to growing concern about road safety. About 8,000 people are killed on French roads each year, more than twice as many as in Britain.

The new limit brought France in line with Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Holland, Norway, Portugal and Turkey. However, European Union moves to standardise the 80mg level in all member states are being resisted by Britain, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain, which all have an 80mg ceiling. In Poland and Sweden, 20mg is the maximum. In Finland, Hungary and Romania, driving with any alcohol in the blood is banned.

A European Union spokesman said: "Even at a level of 20mg, symptoms of impaired concentration may be registered. Factors like fatigue, illness, stress and drugs have additional adverse effects and may cause severe concentration loss."



The Royalist stranded on a sandbank in the Bristol Channel. A helicopter and lifeboat rescued passengers



Police hope for video clue to roadside killing

By ADRIAN LEE



Detectors were examining tape from motorway video cameras yesterday and checking the records of 15,000 Land Rovers as they searched for the killer of a motorist during a "road rage" attack.

Stephen Cameron, 21, an electrician, died from a stab wound to the heart after the altercation off the M25 near Swanley, Kent. He was a passenger in a Bedford van driven by his teenage girlfriend.

The other motorist who police said had overtaken the couple at speed was driving a dark-coloured, L-registration Land Rover Discovery. He was described as white, about 5ft 10in tall, with brown medium-length hair and wearing blue jeans and a dark bomber jacket. Today Mr Cameron's brother will appear at a press conference to make a public appeal to catch the killer. Police will also issue a photofit impression of the wanted man.

Kent police said 400 people had come forward with information by yesterday afternoon, including some who claimed to have been in similar incidents involving a car matching the description. The murder of Mr Cameron, at 1.22pm on Sunday at traffic lights on a roundabout near junction three of the M25, prompted the RAC to call for "road rage" to be taken more seriously by the Government and police.

The RAC also said motorists convicted of attacks on other drivers should face compulsory bans and be allowed to take the wheel again only after counselling.

Police said the murderer could have joined the roundabout from up to six roads but drove off afterwards along the M25 towards the Dartford Tunnel. Tape from cameras on the M25, M20 and other roads was being studied but police said the quality might not be good enough to read the number plate.

Detective Superintendent John Grace said he was satisfied that Mr Cameron did not know his killer but had left his vehicle to remonstrate with him. The other man either produced a knife during the

argument or returned to his Land Rover and stabbed Mr Cameron twice. The weapon, described as a narrow-bladed knife, has not been recovered.

Mr Grace said: "It was an extremely violent response to what was a minor incident." He warned other motorists: "Avoid confrontation — it is not worth it."

Mr Cameron's girlfriend was said by police yesterday to be traumatised. "It is a question of counselling her rather than questioning her at the moment," a spokeswoman said.

Mr Cameron lived with his parents, Ken and Antoinette, a hospital worker, in Swanley. Yesterday, they laid flowers at the spot where their son was stabbed. A note on one bunch said: "Steve, I will love you, cherish you and be with you forever — Mum."

The victim's uncle, who declined to be named, said: "Stephen was a fun-loving lad who enjoyed life. We are a close family and this has shattered us."

The family moved to a bungalow in Swanley about two years ago from Orpington. Stephen Cameron left Kemnal Manor School at the age of 16 to set up his own electrical engineering business. He was a keen football supporter, who followed Millwall, and also played golf.

A friend said yesterday: "He would always stick up for his mates — he was the type to protect his girlfriend but he was not the argumentative type. He was more into having a laugh."

CORRECTIONS

A report (May 1) wrongly suggested that Cheltenham Conservative Club had closed the premises which it owns in the town's Vittoria Walk. It has not, but Cheltenham Conservative Association, which occupied rooms at the club,

has moved to larger premises. We apologise for the error.

A painting by Jack Butler Yeats, *Farewell to Mayo*, sold for £804,500 at Sotheby's, not £408,500 as reported on May 17.

Employees' day at sea ends on sandbank

By RICHARD DUKE

AN OFFICE outing on board a sailing ship ended abruptly yesterday when the vessel ran aground in the Bristol Channel and the 20 workers had to be rescued.

Dennans, an electrical firm in Bristol, had hired the training ship *Royalist* for £30,000. But its staff, including a pregnant woman, had to be taken to safety in an RAF helicopter and an inflatable lifeboat after it hit a sandbank near Oldbury power station. No one was hurt.

The 13 crew of the vessel, owned by the Sea Cadet Association, stayed on board as attempts were made to refloat the ship last night. Also on board was a pilot whose job had been to navigate from Sharpness, Gloucester, to Barry, South Glamorgan.

Jerry Rowett, a director of Dennans, which hired the ship to mark the company's fiftieth year, said: "I promised them a day out they would never forget — but this wasn't what I had in mind."

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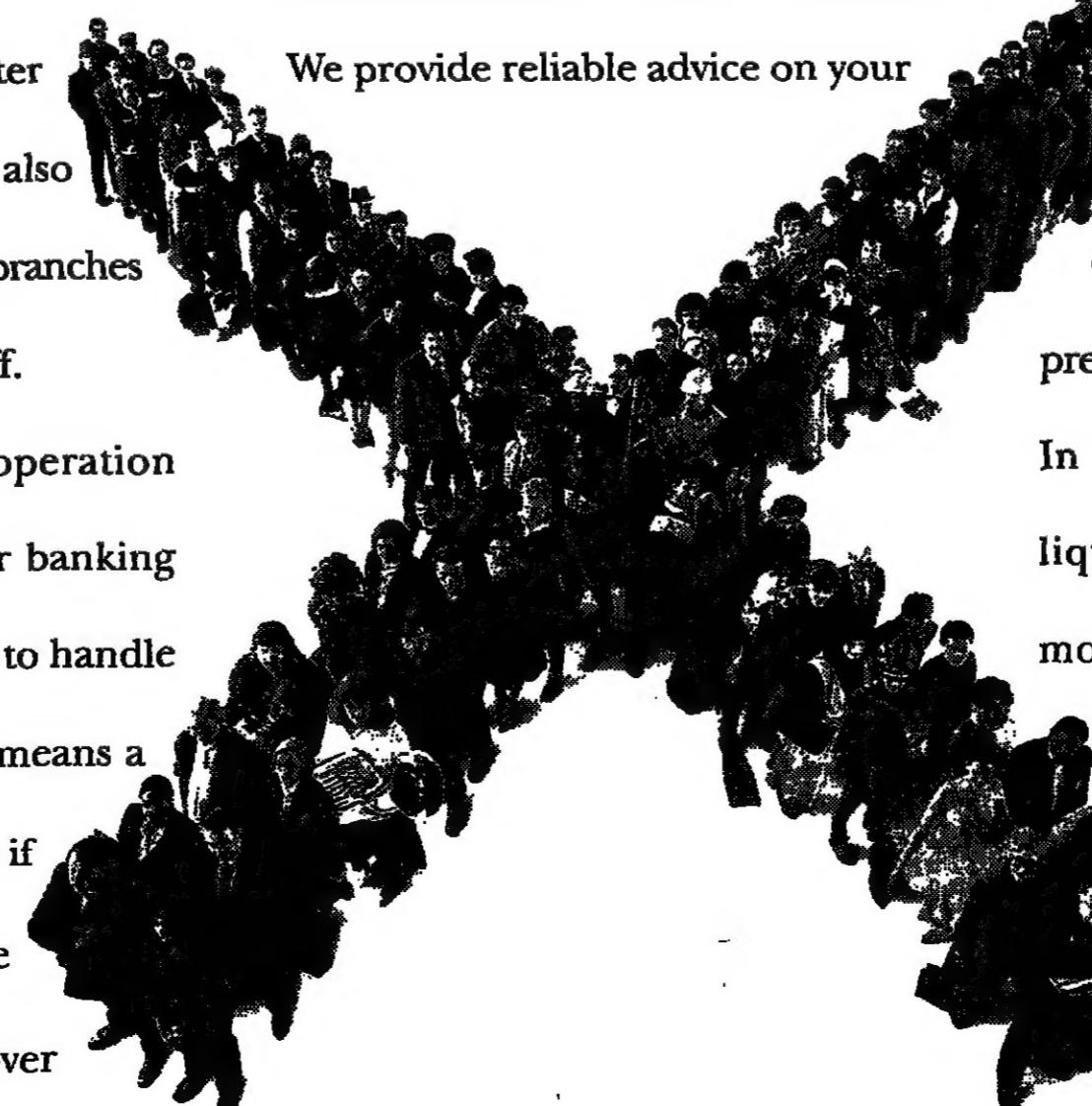
financial needs and a wide range of solutions. We recently announced our intention to acquire Clerical Medical Investment Group which will create new opportunities in the life, pensions and investment markets.

We're looking to improve our general insurance service by introducing new products and claims handling procedures to benefit our customers.

One of our next major tasks is to convert the Society to a public company. This is due to take place by the summer of 1997, if our members vote in favour earlier in the year. This will take us one step further in achieving our aim of being the biggest and best personal finance business in the UK.

At the Annual General Meeting on 20th May, our Chairman, Jon Foulds, was able to report encouraging financial

results. In terms of our security and stability as a home to the hopes of 12.5 million customers, last year our assets grew to £99 billion and pre-tax profits rose by 13% to £1.1 billion. In 1995, we took 18% of UK personal liquid savings and 19% of UK net mortgage lending. We're sure you'll agree that giving a little extra help to our customers is how we'll continue to build the Halifax together.



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1,500ft asteroid comes close to making the Earth move

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

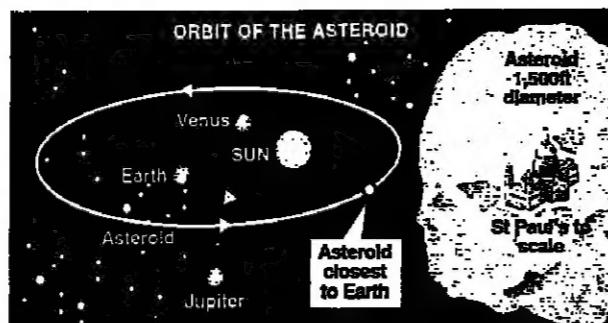
AN ASTEROID that narrowly missed Earth on Sunday was big enough to have done huge damage had it achieved a direct hit.

Thousands of square miles would have been ruined if it had struck land, or a tidal wave created if it landed in the sea. Yet it was detected only four days before it passed by 280,000 miles away, or roughly the distance to the Moon.

Astronomers believe there are thousands of undetected asteroids whose orbits cross that of the Earth. A search in March by the US space

agency Nasa found four new ones in just 12 weeks. The latest Earth-skimmer was found by two young American astronomers. Since searches began in recent years, only five objects have passed closer to the Earth than this one, and none was anything like as large.

The new asteroid, named 1996 JA1, is estimated to be about 1,000 to 1,500 feet in diameter. This is ten times as large as the objects that created Meteor Crater in Arizona 50,000 years ago, and laid waste thousands of acres of Siberian forest in 1908. Tim



Sphaer, a graduate student at the University of Florida, who discovered the asteroid, said: "This asteroid wouldn't destroy civilisation if it hit Earth, but it would sure mess things up." He was working with

Carl Hergenrother at the University of Arizona's 16-inch telescope in the Santa Catalina mountains north of Tucson, surveying the sky and taking photographs. The image showing 1996 JA1 was

taken last Monday, but not developed until Wednesday, when the object was noticed.

Dr Duncan Steel of the University of Adelaide, an astronomer who specialises in the impacts of comets and asteroids, estimates that 1996 JA1 could have devastated an area of 100,000 miles square miles if it hit land, or created a wave 50 to 100 metres high if its impact was in the oceans.

The object was seen only days before its closest approach. "If it had been on a collision course, we would not have had time to do much about it," he said. The discoverers of 1996 JA1 have been searching since 1992, using

outdated equipment. Unlike other searchers, who point their telescope along the plane of the solar system — the ecliptic — they look 35 degrees above the plane.

"We were told when we started this project that we would never find anything interesting," Mr Hergenrother said. "But this object would not have been found if we had been looking along the ecliptic like everyone else."

The object is now being calculated, and it appears to visit Earth about every four years. Attempts will now be made to work out whether it will come any closer.

Searching for objects on

collision course with the Earth, once deemed the province of cranks, has become serious in recent years. In March a major search began, funded by Nasa and using a 39-inch US Air Force telescope in Hawaii, attached to a computer system that automatically sifts the images.

In its first 12-day run the Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking System (Neat) detected more than 2,400 objects in various orbits, half of which had never been seen before.

Among them were four new asteroids ranging in size from 1.8 miles to less than 330ft with orbits that cross the Earth's. "These discoveries

certainly suggest that we could face a surprise encounter with a large, unseen object," said Dr Eleanor Helin, the project's principal investigator.

Using a more sensitive detector which has just been installed, Neat should be able to detect 50 to 70 Earth-crossers per month or 600 a year. "That's kind of frightening," Dr Helin said.

The odds that any will hit the Earth in the near future are remote. An event as large as the 1908 impact might be expected every 50 to 100 years, with an object the size of 1996 JA1 impacting only every 1,000 to 10,000 years.

German and Dutch football hooligans look forward to settling old scores at Euro 96

Nazi label obscures two tribes who just want to go to war

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WOLFGANG B is a happy man. His team, Cologne, has escaped relegation and in a few weeks he will be having the fight of his life outside a British pub as Germany tries to reach the finals of the European football championship.

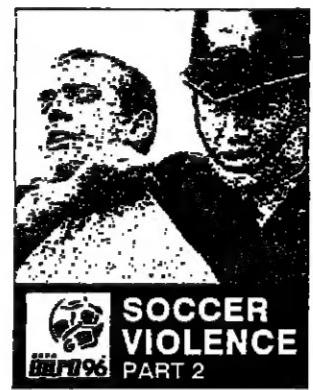
"It should be good," says the 27-year-old mechanic, who has taken kung fu classes for two years. "I've always liked Britain."

Wolfgang does not conform to the stereotypes of the much-trumpeted German invasion force. He is not a neo-Nazi ("can't stand politics"), doesn't have a shaven head ("my girlfriend would not stand for it") and he comes from a solid lower middle-class family.

There are, according to Professor Wilhelm Heitmeyer of Bielefeld University, three basic categories of German fans: the consumer-oriented who pick and choose which matches they want to attend; the football-oriented who attend every single match; and the experience-oriented who seek violent adventure in and out of the stadium.

The police broadly agree. They talk of "category C" fans — tough youths — and expect 1,000 of them to be setting out for Britain in a total contingent of perhaps 10,000 or more.

In Cologne it is easy to identify category C. Every



SOCER VIOLENCE

PART 2

Saturday they occupy Block 38 in the Cologne stadium. Wolfgang B is not a Block 38 man, but he remembers some formidable battles. "One Wednesday we Cologne hools [short for hooligans] beat hell out of some Turkish-origin Cologne hools during an international between Germany and Turkey. Then on Saturday, we were fighting together again against Hamburg."

That tribalism, rather than hidden neo-Nazi puppet masters, is the nature of the German and Dutch thugs. British police should spot them easily: not the obvious skinheads, but relatively harmless-looking youths wearing heavy belts and carrying umbrellas that conceal, or later become, weapons.

The established German supporters' clubs have banished many of the most violent

troublemakers, but the hardened cliques have formed their own gangs — the Adlerfront (Eagle Front), the Hamburg Ultras, the BFCs from Berlin. Sometimes they have contacts with each other, arranging pitched battles in advance, holding joint Christmas or anniversary parties.

In the magazine *Fan-Treff*, they chronicle their latest encounters: "There was some pretty bad hand-to-hand combat at the last game... ten Eagle Fronters and Ultras knocked each other's faces in with their belts."

Yet these same groups come together for national games. "In the German league they crack each other's skulls," says Steffen Heumann of *Fan-Treff*. "In the European championship you pitch in against the common enemy."

All too often Germany's "common enemy" has been Holland. Drug abuse is higher among the Dutch and they seem to be more sophisticated in their methods. Before a European match between Rotterdam and Werder Bremen, the Dutch used mobile telephones to tip off comrades about the German police presence in Bremen railway station. The Dutch pulled the emergency brakes and made their way on foot, or on stolen bicycles, setting fire to a railway shed en route.

Both Germany and Holland have strict data protection laws however, which makes it difficult to obtain comprehensive information in advance. Yet if the troublemakers were card-carrying neo-Nazis, passing on relevant information to the British would present few legal problems.

But there is no real evidence linking the far Right with the current hooligan scene. True, German fans screamed Heil Hitler when they rampaged through Vienna in 1994 and Hitler salutes are quite common during internationals.

"Nazi symbols have a provocative role; they break taboos," says Professor Volker Ritter, of the Sports Sociology Institute in Cologne, "but the point is not political — it is to get noticed and be mentioned in Monday's newspapers."

Analysis of the political attitudes of German fans shows that 20.2 per cent of supporters feel close to the neo-Nazis, 24 per cent have no politics at all and 35 per cent are in sympathy with one of the mainstream democratic parties. There have been explicit connections — the now-banned Dortmund Borussenfront was politically close to the far Right and had the

potential to cause serious disruption.

But the politics of the German terraces is no longer governed by Left or Right; the division is between those who fight and those who do not. Thomas Schneider, co-ordinator of the so-called Fan Projects (set up to bring fans closer to their clubs in the hope of civilising them), emphasises that there will not be a far Right onslaught from the Germans. "The European championship in England will not be invaded by German Nazis," he said. "It is absurd and has been completely exaggerated."

One factor may be more decisive than Herr Schneider and his social workers or smirking police dogs: many German fans are terrified of their British counterparts. "Whoever behaves like a hooligan will be treated accordingly," Herr Schneider said.

The English are the most fanatical of fans, in both the positive and the negative sense."



Dutch riot police deal with a German supporter. Fans from both nations have a history of organised clashes

MEPs seek to make fans more friendly

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Parliament will be asked today to endorse a proposal to counter football hooliganism by promoting fair play and holding get-togethers for rival fans.

European conservatives see the move, suggested in an advisory report by the Civil Liberties Committee, under Claudia Roth, a German Green, as an unworthy attempt to socialise hooligans rather than crack down with the law. Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, a British Conservative MEP on the committee, said the idea was fanciful. "Dealing with hooliganism is essentially a matter for the forces of law and order."

Many of the recommendations have been adopted in Britain well ahead of the Euro 96 championship next month, expected to be attended by 250,000 foreign fans. These include segregating rival fans,

controlled ticket sales, scanners to monitor crowd movements, substantial numbers of exit gates, and banning alcohol and racist material from grounds.

Opposition from the European People's Party means that the report will fail to win adoption or will have to be substantially amended.

The report is expected to offer other suggestions which may make those familiar with the British terraces smile, such as visits by rival clubs to promote "mutual understanding". Another proposal is EU awards to teams, individuals and supporters' clubs for fair play.

The committee will urge clubs, national associations, Uefa and Fifa to fund projects involving fans and for the EU to back projects linked with the 1998 World Cup, to be held in France.

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Supporters bring Turkish season to a violent close

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FEARS of violence by Turkish football fans at Euro 96 have been raised by the killing of a teenage supporter at the end of the country's season.

Mumin Aydin, a 16-year-old supporter of Trabzonspor, a club on the Black Sea, was shot in the mouth and then run over by a car on Sunday.

His uncle, Niyazi Aydin, believed that the death had followed a fight with supporters of Fenerbahce, simply for defacing themselves.

The previous week, a Fenerbahce follower had been wounded in a knife attack thought to have been carried out by followers of a rival club.

Both attacks were in Istanbul.

British police were already concerned about potential hooliganism by Turkish fans.

who have earned a poor reputation in recent years. When Manchester United arrived for a game against Galatasaray three years ago, they were greeted by jeering fans with placards saying "Welcome to Hell". United supporters were attacked in their hotel by local youths and complained that they were arrested and deported by the Turkish police simply for defacing themselves.

Turkey will play their three preliminary games in Sheffield and Nottingham after Euro 96 begins on June 8.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday spoke about the potential for disorder at the European championship: "Nobody can give a cast-iron guarantee that there

will be no trouble. That is impossible. But I know that a great deal of work has been done by the police in this country and their colleagues in Europe to plan as effectively as possible."

Mr Howard was speaking during a tour of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he examined a police control room at St James' Park that has 32 cameras to scan the football ground and surrounding streets. There are also five cells capable of holding up to 75 people, underneath the east stand of the Newcastle ground.

It is nicknamed "The Pink Palace" because of the colour it is painted, which is supposed to have a calming effect on supporters who have been arrested in the stadium.

Scenes from a new series of BBC's *Last of the Summer Wine* may have to be reshooted after a sound tape and recording equipment were stolen from the film crew's Land Rover. Masked thieves were seen breaking into the vehicle in Shepley, West Yorkshire.

Life for wife killer

A taxi driver who strangled his eight-months pregnant wife, dismembering and burning her body before scattering the remains, was jailed for life at Preston Crown Court. Javed Iqbal, 26, of Burnley, admitted murdering Shaneeta Bi.

BR crash charges

The British Railways Board has been charged with breaching safety laws after a crash between two trains last September. No one was hurt when an empty train was struck by a train carrying 20 passengers near Wood Street station, east London.

Morals fight money for winning hand on island casino

By PHILIP JEUNE

JERSEY is playing for high stakes over plans for the island's first casino. In one of the most divisive disputes for a generation, the community has been split by a moral dilemma that pits strongly held family values against the need to compete with rival holiday locations.

The head of Jersey's tourist authority, Senator Dick Shenton, has lodged a private member's Bill in the island's parliament seeking to establish a casino. He said: "Whether we like it or not, the world is changing and if Jersey wishes to remain competitive, it must adapt."

Mr Shenton, a committed Roman Catholic, has visited ten British casinos as part of his research and believes that the States of Jersey answered the morality questions years

ago when they allowed bookmakers to operate on the island. Since then, they have also set up a government-run lottery, with profits from the fortnightly draw going to local charities and subsidising St Helier's huge leisure centre, Fort Regent. The island's population of 84,000 rises to 115,000 in the tourist season.

Heading the opposition will be Senator Reg Jeune, Father of the House, who as president of the policy and resources committee is the island's most powerful politician. A staunch Methodist, he has agreed to submit a critical petition when the matter is debated, probably in next month. In doing so, he will be repeating a task he first carried out 31 years ago when he successfully opposed plans to allow the Hilton Hotel group to build a

hotel and casino complex at Fort Regent by presenting a petition signed by 8,500 people. A second proposal, brought in 1984, was defeated by 47 votes to 4.

The Methodist Church's so-

cial responsibility committee instigated the current petition. Its secretary, the Rev Henry Le Ruez, says he has been heartened by the response from islanders of all ages and all walks of life. "We just felt

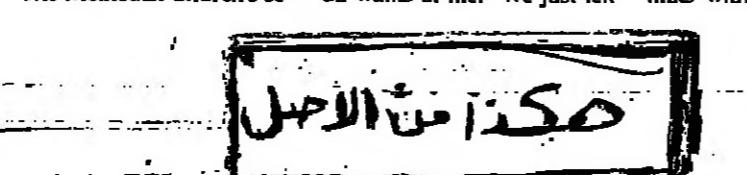
we had to do something," he said. Their opposition is based on five points: the effect a casino would have on Jersey's image, the type of people it might attract, the possible links with drug and alcohol

abuse and money-laundering, the possible damage to Jersey's reputation as a finance centre, and the compounding of local social problems.

He has little truck with Senator Shenton's argument that a casino has become a necessary part of the package of holiday activities that Jersey must provide if it is to compete successfully against British destinations such as Bournemouth and Southampton and nearby French resorts, such as St-Malo and Dinard.

"Why has Jersey got to be like everywhere else?" he asked. "Its uniqueness is what has made it so popular."

Observers outside the island might consider it odd that a government which permits bookmakers to operate and which runs its own lottery might attract the type of people it might attract, the possible links with drug and alcohol



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abuse and money-laundering, the possible damage to Jersey's reputation as a finance centre, and the compounding of local social problems.

Labour is forced to reconsider 'tartan tax' plan

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership is considering dropping plans for a Scottish Parliament to have tax-raising powers.

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, is understood to have drawn up four different options to try to counter the "tartan tax" campaign mounted by the Tories. One proposal is to postpone the tax-raising powers for four years, which would be a controversial policy reversal.

Under Labour's present plans a Scottish Parliament would have powers to raise or lower the basic rate of tax by 3p. Tony Blair, however, has become increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of the Tory campaign, which is being led by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary.

Mr Blair has already floated the idea that Labour would not use its tax-varying powers during the first four-year term of a Scottish parliament. But some of his colleagues are now pressing him to go further and opt for parliament without such powers, at least in the short term.

One option being studied by the Scottish Labour Party is to have no tax-raising powers for a fixed period. Legislation

would be drafted giving the Scottish parliament an automatic right in vary taxes after this period — probably the first four-year term. This would delay the chance of tax rises specifically for Scotland until at least 2002.

Another option is to introduce tax-raising powers but to insist they could be used only with the support of a majority of two thirds, or three quarters, of MPs in the parliament. In effect this would give minority parties the chance to veto tax cuts or tax rises, operating in a similar way to guaranteed majority voting in Europe.

The other options being considered by Mr Robertson include: the status quo — the Scottish parliament would have tax-varying powers as originally planned; and allowing the parliament tax powers but insisting that parties must announce in their manifestos any intention to use them.

Last night a spokesman for Mr Blair's office said: "We have no plans to get rid of the tax raising powers of a Scottish Parliament." But he confirmed that the Scottish Labour Party would not use its tax powers in its first term — a move fiercely denied by Mr Blair's office when *The Times* reported it in March.

He pointed out that Mr Blair had already made clear that any party planning to raise taxes would have to have a mandate from the electorate to do so. "The Labour Party has no plans to stand on a platform of raising taxes," he said.

Labour sources tried to play down the apparent U-turn. "None of the four options diminish Labour's commitment to tax-raising powers," one source said. "But we have



Robertson: trying to counter Tory campaign

'Genuine debate needed on EMU'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN set out plans yesterday to consult widely in the City and the financial industry over moves towards a single currency.

The Shadow Chancellor emphasised the need for a "genuine debate" over monetary union, saying: "We need more evidence on all the potential costs of not joining."

His comments were part of a Labour effort to counter Tory claims that the party is committed to monetary union without giving full consideration to the consequences. He told French employers in Paris that there were potential drawbacks and "it would be complacent to wish them away".

He made clear, however, that there was no doubt over Britain's continued membership of the EU. "Britain's future is in Europe. We cannot hover half-in and half-out for ever," he said. "We cannot place ourselves halfway between a European future and isolationism."

Labour's consultation move coincided with plans announced by the Bank of England to test opinion on monetary union. Eddie George, the Governor, told MPs yesterday that the Bank would publish quarterly updates on current opinion.

He put written evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee in which he outlined further plans to organise regional workshops and discussions for the business community. Mr George, who has outlined his fears about the disadvantages of joining monetary union, told MPs that the financial markets would not necessarily lose by staying out unless people thought that Britain "was going to the dogs".

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to national heritage ministers and Lord Chancellor; Environment: Reserves Force Bill, second reading; Commonwealth Development Corporation Bill, all stages. In the Lords: Education: Reserves Bill, second reading; Schools: Reserves Bill, second reading; Education (Scotland) Bill, third reading; National Curriculum Bill, second reading; Maintained Schools Bill, second reading; National Health Service (Prescribed Duties) Bill, all stages; Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill, second reading; Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Bill, second reading.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to social security ministers and Prime Minister; Delegation Bill, second reading; Police Bill, all stages; Industrial Tribunals Bill, all stages; Employment Rights Bill, all stages; Bodmin Moor Commons Bill, second reading. In the Lords: London Regional Transport Bill, (Prescribed Duties) Bill, second reading; Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Bill, second reading.

Leading article, page 17



Michael Meacher: "He will be reading all his articles and speeches in future"

Magazine gaffe puts Meacher on a red alert

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL MEACHER instructed his officials yesterday not to submit policy articles in his name to the press before he has had chance to read them.

The practice is widespread at Westminster and other MPs are now likely to follow his lead. Mr Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, took action after the publication of an article in the left-wing magazine *Red Pepper* in which he unilaterally committed Labour to scrapping the jobseeker's allowance.

He had not seen the offending phrase, which was coined by Ian Willmore, his researcher, who wrote the article. Mr Willmore immediately tried to limit the damage by admitting his gaffe.

Mr Willmore, 37, a Labour councillor in Haringey, is no stranger to controversy. In 1983 he left his job at the Department of Employment after leaking a confidential record of a conversation between Michael Quinlan, the Permanent Secretary, and Sir John Donaldson,

then Master of the Rolls, on the role of the courts in industrial relations. The leak was discovered when he was working out his notice.

He moved to the trade union movement and in 1983 wrote a speech for Ron Todd, head of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which savaged Neil Kinnock's support for "yuppie Filofax socialism".

Labour moderates presented Mr Willmore, who was educated at Marlborough College and read theology and philosophy at Oriel College, Oxford, with 30 £ pieces as a reward for his so-called treachery. He also had a Filofax.

Mr Willmore, who has worked for Mr Meacher for a year, said that he had read an inaccurate newspaper article declaring that the jobseeker's allowance was dead. "I had no intention of trying to cause trouble, put Michael at odds with the leadership, or to effect its abolition. I got it wrong. Michael will be reading all his articles and speeches in future."

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The most dangerous road race in the world

THERE "ain't many places", as a broad-bottomed whore remarked, where the sheriff happily takes a snapshot as the village madam congratulates a beer-soaked man who has driven through the county at 220mph. Nevada is one of them.

The Silver State Classic Challenge, hailed as "the most dangerous road race in the world", was held under a rattlesnake sun in the libertarian deserts north of Las Vegas. Out here they spurn poker and roulette as kids' games. A real gamble is to fill your car with gas, jam a cowboy boot on the accelerator and ride Route 318 for 90 hell-bent miles.

The race, first run in 1988, encapsulates the carefree ways of the Deep West, where the people dislike being told what to do. In that spirit the dusty mining town of Ely got Nevada's state government to agree to discard traffic laws one day a year on Route 318 and let them "go for it".

Route 318, a pot-holed, glorious ride through the purplish Egan mountains, was closed for much of last Sunday to northbound traffic. In the other direction, at high velocity, came the racing cars, some of them parachuted roadsters, others little more than normal saloons whose cylinders had been given a polish.

The entrants were mainly middle-aged speed addicts, leathered old gaffers whose bones creaked as they alighted from their vehicles to register for the run. "Race" is a misleading term. It is less of a competitive event than an excuse to drive as fast as one dares.

More than 100 cars screamed down the highway, trailing oil, smoke and shouts

Hot on the trail of the biggest burn-up in Vegas, Quentin Letts reports from Ely, Nevada on the lure of Route 318 to speed addicts hell-bent on dicing with death

of excitement. "Biggest burn-up of rubber on the highway in half a century," reckoned Phil Henry, a Vegas businessman and inveterate speedster who invented a gadget who can detect police cars before they detect you. There was a North Carolina college professor, an Arizona businessman, a Pennsylvania woman with multiple sclerosis, plus a few

wheel of his 160mph 1973 Plymouth Barracuda. "This is more fun than John Stuart Mill," said the lean Mr Moy. Ten minutes later, in one of the most frightening moments of the day, one of the Barracuda's tyres blew at high speed and Mr Moy did well not to die.

Barlow White, former Mayor of Ely, entered in his little 1972 Opel GT and got her up to a juddering 150mph. Wayne Whytock, from cautious Salt Lake City, took the Tarpanin off his 1965 Oldsmobile Cutlass and took it past its official maximum of 120mph.

Cowboys marshalling their herds watched as the cars shot past. A couple of vultures feasting on road kill moved out of the way too late, as did a snake which was shredded.

If you tried elsewhere in the US there would be people shouting about public safety. But this was Nevada. The only problem from the public in eight years was the time a rancher's wife reckoned that, heck, she was going to use the highway to go to church in her 45mph pick-up, even if them racers were on it. She appeared not to notice the numerous Corvettes, Camaros and Porsches which passed her in a roar.

There was also the time a volunteer race official forgot his hat and perhaps had a drink too many. Sheriffs had to restrain him from walking in to the middle of the road to wave his souvenir T-shirt at



A Chevrolet Corvette roars past the finish line in Ely, Nevada. Drivers were welcomed with a buffet and warm beer at one of the local bordello

the cars. There were no Terry-Thomas-style rivalries among the drivers, but there have in the past been touches of *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*. Last year a \$65,000 aluminium Dodge VIPer caught fire and melted into a puddle, just like a child's

dropped ice cream. The owner tilted back his cap and said "shucks".

At other times the engine of a 1956 Dodge D500 exploded after 20 minutes, a man ran out of fuel and pushed his car over the finish line, and a Ferrari Testarossa owner hit a

Nevada rock at 190mph. The rock won. Since 1988 there have been two deaths and horrific crashes. Drivers before Sunday's run were told: "Folks, the gas pedal works both ways. What you are about to do can be dangerous."

At the finish line there

were pickle sandwiches and warm beer, dispensed by the ample employees of the Green Lantern, a race sponsor.

The Lantern is one of Ely's three brothels, quite legal under Nevada law. Children mingled behind the trestle table and the matronly Lan-

tern girls asked daffy questions about the sporting endeavour and checked that everyone had a drink.

They took such pride in their buffet that one thought, if only momentarily, of the wives and girlfriends at an English cricket match tea.

Airman jailed for sex with minor

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN TOKYO

A US Air Force enlisted man was found guilty yesterday of having sex with a girl, 14, at an airbase on Okinawa, base officials said.

Senior Airman Anthony T. Williams also was convicted by a court martial of committing indecent acts with a minor, adultery and providing alcohol to minors.

He was jailed for 20 months and reduced in rank, and will receive a bad conduct discharge when his sentence is completed. Williams, whose wife was in court, was charged with rape after the victim, the American daughter of a military employee, said he had sex with her while a minor looked on at a party on Kadena Air Base last December.

In an earlier session of the court martial, which began at Kadena last week, Williams, 24, admitted all charges except rape. Prosecutors agreed yesterday to replace the rape charge, which would have carried a maximum 30 years in prison with the lesser charge of carnal knowledge of a minor. An Air Force statement said the rape charge was dropped "at the specific request of the victim's parents". It did not elaborate.

Clinton awaits verdict in Whitewater case

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN ANXIOUS White House yesterday awaited a verdict in the first big Whitewater trial that will have an impact on President Clinton's re-election hopes.

The Little Rock jury spent a third day weighing evidence against Jim and Susan McDougal, Mr Clinton's former partners in the Whitewater Development Corporation, and Jim Tucker, his successor as Arkansas Governor.

A guilty verdict would strongly suggest the nine women and three men believed Mr Clinton had lied in his videotaped testimony for the defence, instantly reviving the Whitewater affair as a potent election-year issue for Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate.

An acquittal would be a setback for Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor on whose long-running investigation the Republicans have pinned so much hope of regaining the White House.

"The ball is in Ken Starr's court," said Bill Kristol, a top Republican strategist. "The Republicans cannot do it with-

out Starr having real success.

Real convictions and real

indictments would make the issue credible to voters. Otherwise it is probably just partisan politics."

Mr Starr's prosecution team has accused the McDougals and Mr Tucker of illegally obtaining \$3 million (£1.9 million) in government-insured loans from both Madison Guaranty, Mr McDougal's failed Arkansas bank, and Capital Management Services, a collapsed investment company owned by David Hale, a former Little Rock judge.

Mr Hale, 57, has admitted defrauding his company. In return for a reduced sentence and federal protection he agreed to tell Mr Starr all he knew of financial corruption involving Little Rock's political elite during the 1980s and helped to secure nine minor convictions.

He was the prosecution's star witness in this nine-week trial and claimed Mr Clinton, as Governor, had pressured him to make an illegal \$300,000 loan to Mrs Mc-

Dougal, \$50,000 of which was used to prop up the troubled Whitewater company.

Sam Heuer, Mr McDougal's lawyer, subpoenaed Mr Clinton to appear as a witness.

During four hours of questioning at the White House, Mr Clinton denied Mr Hale's story.

The defence used this videotaped testimony as the dramatic climax of its case last week, telling the jury it had to choose between the President's word and that of Mr Hale, a convicted criminal.

"In order to buy into David

Hale's bill of goods you have to disbelieve the President,"

Mr Heuer said. "It is humiliating for the President of the United States to answer questions in a court of law but he did it to set the record straight."

George Howard, the trial

judge, must decide separately

over the next two weeks

whether to release the film of Mr Clinton's testimony. The White House is opposed, arguing that the President's political enemies would use it against him in campaign commercials.



Clinton: has outfoxed opponents over welfare

Republican plan filched by Clinton

WASHINGTON: Republican leaders cried foul yesterday after President Clinton outfoxed them by endorsing a radical plan that would force all welfare recipients, including single mothers, to work for their benefit.

They accused him of making a cynical, election-year

feint to the Right by paying lip

service to ideas that were at

odds with his own less strig-

ent proposals.

Behind their protests lay a fear that Mr Clinton was filching one of

their core issues — welfare

reform — after having twice

vetoed their welfare Bills.

The Republicans were espe-

cially upset that the "work-

fare" plan Mr Clinton pro-

fessed to admire was devised

by one of their own, Tommy

Thompson, Wisconsin's con-

servative Governor.

The Wisconsin proposal

would present all welfare ap-

plicants with four choices:

a regular job, job-training,

community service, or sheltered

workshops for those incapab-

le of performing other tasks.

Clash of the titans sours Disney dream team partnership

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

TWO of Hollywood's richest moguls are said to be at loggerheads over how to run the Walt Disney Company, the world's largest entertainment organisation.

Michael Eisner, the company chairman, and Michael Ovitz, his new lieutenant, are in danger of a spectacular falling-out over a string of recent public relations blunders.

Sources told the *New York Post* yesterday that these included a failed bid to lure an American football team to a base near Disneyland.

The partnership came into

being nine months ago, when Mr Eisner wooed Mr Ovitz, a family friend, away from the actors' agency he founded to help run the Disney company.

The move came in the wake of Disney's sensational \$19-billion (£12.5-billion) buy-out of the ABC television network.

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Careless campers set Midwest ablaze

BY GILES WHITTELL

HOT winds and tinder-dry forests created the perfect conditions for a wildfire in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains at the weekend. Careless campers did the rest.

A tent's charred remains were surrounded by a police cordon yesterday as fire-fighters continued to battle a fast-moving blaze that has destroyed nearly 10,000 acres of Colorado's Pike National Forest since Saturday.

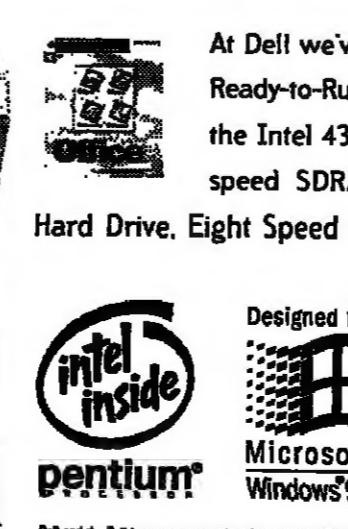
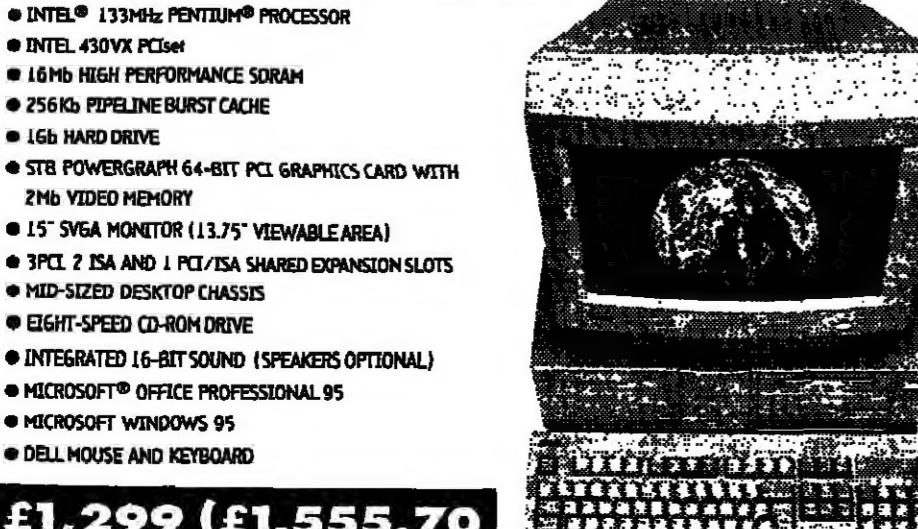
No injuries have been reported, but 12 buildings have been razed and a broad swathe of hill country blackened. This latest early season fire heightens fears that 1996 could prove a more devastating year than usual in the American Midwest.

A drought has left the prairies cracked and parched months before harvest and put fire-fighters on high alert from the Rockies to California's coastal ranges. Visitors to national parks and forests are being urged to be even more vigilant than usual.

As the Colorado fire raged 30 miles southwest of Denver, another blaze also blazed on visitors, destroyed 5,800 acres of Arizona's Coconino National Forest, north of Phoenix.

Earlier this month, hundreds of thousands of acres of ancient forest in Arizona and New Mexico were burnt at a time of year when melting snow usually keeps mountain-sides moist and fire-resistant. One blaze spread to within yards of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, birthplace of the atom bomb.

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Likud vows to shift Palestinian funds to Gaza settlers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, promised yesterday to transfer funds earmarked for the embryonic Palestinian Authority to help finance an annual investment in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if he wins the May 29 election.

The promise, reported in an interview with Israel Radio, has intensified fears among Western and moderate Arab governments that a Likud victory could mean a collapse in the Middle East peace process and a return to the violence of the 1987-93 intifada. The Likud leader said that in addition to the state funds, totalling a billion shekels (£217 million), he would encourage further settlement through the free market.

The latest opinion polls put Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, 5 percentage points ahead of Mr Netanyahu.



fluence behind Mr Netanyahu with a signed appeal to voters which states: "We pray that [Netanyahu's] election will exalt the honour of Israel and will deepen Jewish religious education and will strengthen our hold on the land."

Mr Netanyahu, in addition to proposing a redirection of funds from the ailing Palestinian economy to Jewish settlements, told the radio that he would not respect any agreement reached by Mr Peres and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, on the future of Jerusalem.

Likud maintains, despite vehement denials from Labour, that secret talks on Jerusalem have begun and that there is a deal in the making.

Flights grounded: The Ben Gurion airport was shut down last night by angry air controllers for three hours after pirate broadcasters threatened safety by interrupting communications with the control tower.

But, pollsters admit that there is a 4 per cent margin of error in their findings. The future shape of the West Bank and Gaza, conquered by Jordan in the 1967 war, is expected to provide a significant element in the 30-minute television debate on Sunday between the two candidates for Prime Minister. The debate could swing the balance among the 1.2 million of the electorate still undecided.

West Bank and Gaza Strip rabbits have thrown their in-

Kidnapped Briton 'at Pol Pot base'

FROM TOM WALKER IN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

A BRITISH mine clearance expert, missing for two months in the north of Cambodia, may have been moved to Khmer Rouge headquarters south of the Thai border, the probable hideout of Pol Pot, one of the century's worst mass murderers.

Reports by Toan Chay, the Governor of Siem Reap province, of the Briton's transfer, are being taken seriously by United Nations and government sources.

Mr Toan fought a guerrilla campaign alongside the Khmer Rouge for many years and has excellent knowledge of the Maoist movement. The Khmer Rouge have yet to



Howes: arduous trip through the jungle

make any demand in connection with Chris Howes, a 36-year-old former sapper from Bristol, and the prolonged silence is baffling onlookers in Phnom Penh.

"I am very happy to tell you that he has arrived safely at Anlong Veng, the Khmer Rouge headquarters," Mr Toan said. "It has been an arduous trip across the jungle and he could easily have been injured by a mine along the way. It has been a long journey. We are pleased to hear that he is well."

He said Mr Howes had his own hut in the Anlong Veng compound. His interpreter, Houn Houth, who was kidnapped at the same time, was being held in separate accommodation with his Khmer Rouge cousin.

Mr Toan said he had received his information from villagers, and that he had failed to make any direct contact with the Khmer Rouge at the compound, which is hidden in dense jungle and scrub and well out of the reach of government forces.

There have been no official sightings of Pol Pot since 1988. Some say he also has a hideout in a Thai villa.

So far nine Cambodians — six soldiers, two policemen and a civilian — have been killed in the search for Mr Howes.

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Taiwan pledge on peace visit

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

LEE TENG-HUI, the President of Taiwan, pledged yesterday to "embark on a journey of peace to mainland China" in his inaugural address following his landslide election victory in March.

But Mr Lee's vow will ring hollow in Peking because of his defence of Taiwan's de facto independent status and condemnation of the mainland regime. Last night, China's State Council reiterated its opposition to an independent Taiwan. The highest governing body in Peking said it was not against the democratic political development of the Taiwanese people but opposed threats to China's territorial integrity.

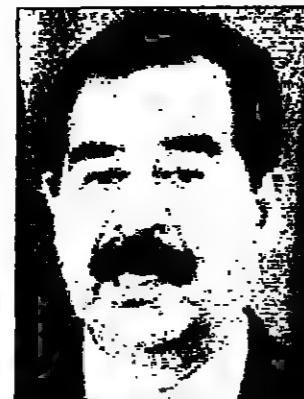
These remarks contain the essence of Mr Lee's appeal to Taiwanese nationalism, especially when linked to his statement that reunification must await a democratic system on mainland China.

Despite the emphasis on a common ethnic identity, Mr Lee could not resist a barb when he noted that for years the West had regarded the Chinese "as dictatorial, feudalistic, penurious and backward", whereas the Chinese "in Taiwan have created a new land of democracy, wealth, and progress ... marking a crucial departure for the Chinese people to rise again to a new height of glory".

Some day, he added, the mainland might reach the same heights.

Saddam yields to UN's terms in oil-for-food deal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



CRIPPLED by years of sanctions, Iraq yesterday accepted a United Nations "oil-for-food" deal that will allow it to start selling a limited amount of oil on world markets for the first time since the Gulf War.

The agreement was hailed by Western nations which have been trying since 1991 to persuade Baghdad to sell limited quantities of oil under international supervision to raise money and so alleviate the plight of the Iraqi people. Iraq had previously rejected UN terms for a limited sale, insisting that the embargo imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 be lifted altogether.

Baghdad's decision to accept the deal was a tacit admission that it had given up hope of an early end to the oil embargo because of its failure to satisfy UN demands that it relinquish its weapons of mass destruction.

The accord marks the biggest change in Iraq's relations with the outside world since the Gulf War and is likely to set the pattern of UN oversight of Iraqi oil sales for years to come. Since the accord must be renewed every six months, the Security Council will have the power to turn the tap on and off.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he was delighted that the resolution,

co-sponsored by Britain, would be implemented. President Saddam Hussein's refusal to accept it for more than a year had caused unnecessary suffering to the Iraqi people, he said. He also gave a warning that life would not return to normal in Iraq until Baghdad fulfilled all its UN obligations.

"It is hard to imagine this happening while Saddam remains in power."

Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the chief Iraqi negotiator, hoped that the accord would lead to a gradual lifting of the UN embargo. "It's a long journey, but we have to take the first step," he said. In a sign that Iraq is seeking a rapprochement with Syria, Dr al-Anbari told the UN that Baghdad

might eventually try to export some oil through a pipeline across Syria that has not been used for the past two decades.

Four months of negotiations came to a head when Dr al-Anbari walked into a meeting with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, carrying a letter of acceptance from Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister.

The memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the UN spelt out stringent terms for the sale of up to \$4 billion (£2.6 billion) worth of oil a year to buy food and medicine. The agreement stipulates that 30 per cent of the oil revenue will go to fund the UN Compensation Commission which is to pay reparations to British and other victims of the Gulf War. A further 13.5 per cent will be spent on aid for Iraqi Kurds.

Independent inspection agents will be appointed by Dr Boutros Ghali to verify the arrival of humanitarian supplies in Iraq and their equitable distribution. Britain hopes that the London-based Lloyd's Register will be asked to provide the agents.

In Baghdad last night, Iraqis fired guns into the air to celebrate the deal. Hundreds rushed into the streets in joy after state television and radio interrupted programmes to announce the accord.



A child refugee of the Liberian civil war waits for wheat to be distributed at the weekend in Kakata, northeast of the capital, Monrovia, where fierce clashes erupted yesterday and spread as far as the diplomatic enclave

African mutineers face French force

Paris: France ordered troops on to the streets of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, yesterday to protect French citizens and stiffle a four-day mutiny by the army that has left six people dead and dozens injured (Ben Macintyre writes). Machinegun and rocket fire echoed around the city as mutinous troops demanding back pay and access to the national armory.

fought street battles with the guard of President Patasse. Last night French troops blocked the main road to the airport near one of the mutineers' camps as looting broke out.

The rebels have taken at least six government hostages, including the Energy Minister, the Army Chief of Staff and the president of the parliament. In a radio interview from his presidential

palace, defended by French troops, President Patasse said: "French troops are there to protect republican institutions which are the product of free and democratic elections."

The Foreign Ministry in Paris said French troops had been deployed to protect the 2,500 French people living in the country and would not intervene directly in the fighting.

Royalist win at colony's club

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

THE Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club last night voted to retain its "royal" title and patronage. It is the only significant colonial institution here to keep the word.

At the largest general meeting ever, its veterans could recall the club decided to stick to the name it was granted by Queen Victoria in 1894 when she agreed to become patron.

The vote was more than 60 per cent in favour of dropping the "royal" but Hong Kong's company ordinances stipulate that for such a change 75 per cent of those voting must approve.

The decision symbolises the expatriate mood of this colony during the last four hundred or so days of British rule. "I have always defended the thin red line," said an overjoyed Ian Dublin, who was wearing a blazer with the badge of a Canadian "regiment". "And tonight we stood by it again." His supporters spoke witheringly of those eager to kowtow to Peking.

It was equally obvious to many other voters — who while losing represented the majority taking part in the poll — that "royal" is becoming a liability. The Jockey Club and the Golf Club have voted to drop the title.

"It's a joke," Paul Bayfield, a club member for seven years, said. "Some of these characters are just saying 'sod you'."

Philip Bowring, a member for 12 years, added: "There are lots of freedoms worth fighting for in Hong Kong, like the Legislative Council and the Bill of Rights. The word royal is definitely not one of them. What you saw tonight was a bunch of caricature yachts voting to keep colonial privilege in a city which is about to stop being a bloody colony."

Mr Dublin, a long-time member of the club, veteran ocean racer and civil servant, defended the royalists. He spoke with contempt of those afraid of offending "our new masters. It's pure fear."

He had previously suggested that wearing Union Jack boxer shorts will be next on the forbidden list. "Entertain Chinese officials at the club," he said. "They love the place. Not one has ever said a word about the name. Royal is part of its charm."

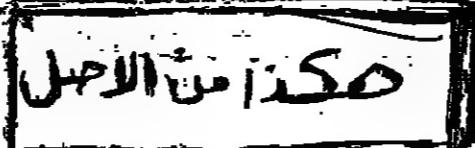
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Royalists
win at
colonial
club



ARTS 33-35

Fast car back to the big time for Tracy Chapman



LAW 37, 39

Mr Mears makes a Society call on the ad people



SPORT 43-48

Lewis back in the running for Olympic gold

HIGHEST EVER ADVERTISED SALARY
Page 36

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MAY 21 1996

City fervour sends Railtrack shares steaming ahead

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Railtrack were eagerly snapped up by City buyers on the first day of trading in the company yesterday after the institutional offer ended massively oversubscribed. Trading in Railtrack dominated an otherwise quiet day in the stock market as the shares soared above the offer price of 190p to a peak of 227½p before falling back to end at 220½p.

Some 160 million Railtrack shares had changed hands by the close of trading, accounting for more than 20 per cent of the day's total turnover of 719 million shares. An estimated 9 per cent of the 605 million small investors are believed to have "staggered" the issue by selling out on the first day. They received an average of 380 shares each, compared with an average application for 587 shares.

Dealers said that institutions had been building up their weightings in

Railtrack, which is valued at around £2.1 billion, close to the qualifying market capitalisation for entry to the FT-SE 100 index.

The fully paid shares were priced at 390p, the top end of the range set by the Government after the institutional offer ended more than ten times oversubscribed, with £10 billion of City money chasing £1 billion of shares.

The outcome of the first day's trading was seen in the City as a rebuff to Labour, which has at-

tempted to block the sale by undermining investor confidence in the flotation through threats to regulate profits. About three quarters of the former British Rail has now been sold to the private sector.

A spokesman for SBC Warburg, the Government's lead City adviser on the sale, said he was "pretty pleased" with the first day's trading. Labour attacked the premium as proof that Railtrack had been undervalued.

Sir George Young, the Transport

Secretary, said: "I am delighted to welcome Railtrack's new shareholders on board and am confident that private sector ownership and management will improve Railtrack's efficiency, resulting in benefits to both passengers and shareholders."

In a Commons written reply, Sir George said last night that net proceeds from the sale would be £1.67 billion, with £849 million being received in the current financial year.

At Railtrack's central London

headquarters, staff said it had been a normal day apart from celebratory drinks with Bob Horton, the company chairman. "People have got their teletext sets tuned in to the share prices but apart from that it is business as usual," said one Railtrack insider. About 60 per cent of the company's 11,500 staff applied for shares in the offer.

Energy sale hopes, page 26
Pennington, page 27
Market report, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100 3776.2 (-11.4)
Yield 5.19%
FT-SE A All share 1898.47 (-3.3)
Nikkei 21979.01 (+2.40)
New York: Dow Jones 8897.57 (+0.37)
S&P Composite 885.29 (+0.38)

200-share index 200.00 (-0.05)

US RATES

Federal Funds 5.01% (-5.4%)
Long Bond 8.01% (-0.51%)
Yield 8.81% (-0.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank 8.1% (-0.1%)
Little Long gilt future (Jun) 108% (-108%)

STERLING

New York: \$ 1.5150* (1.6150)
London: £ 1.5120 (1.5157)
DM 2.3207 (2.3122)
FPT 7.8824 (7.8341)
SFR 1.9056 (1.8951)
YEN 167.07 (161.63)
Euro 94.5 (-0.4)

SSS: DOLLARS

London: DM 1.8343* (1.8338)
FPT 8.1905* (8.1935)
SFR 1.2615* (1.2617)
Yen 107.18* (106.80)
\$ Index 97.2 (-0.6)

Tokyo close Yen 107.00

MORTGAGE RATES

Brent 15-day (Aug) 817.85 (817.20)

gold

London close 8381.25 (\$382.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Severe cut in OECD growth forecasts

JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

EUROPEAN growth prospects have been revised down drastically by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, even without taking account of stringent new budget deficit-cutting measures aimed at meeting the criteria for a single currency.

Jean-Claude Paye, Secretary-General of the OECD, who is about to step down after 12 years, admitted that continuing efforts to cut deficits to meet the Maastricht treaty convergence criteria could strangle growth to such an extent that deficits could end up higher. But he was still confident that a group of European countries will go ahead with forming a single currency in January 1999.

In spite of the evident threat to growth and expectations of even higher unemployment in Europe, M Paye argued that countries had no choice but to

get their financial houses in order. Otherwise, financial markets would punish governments by imposing higher long-term interest rates, which would further hinder growth.

Only six months ago, the OECD, which starts its annual ministerial meeting here today, was forecasting relatively healthy growth of 2.4 per cent in Germany. That figure has been slashed to 0.5 per cent. For next year, the downward revision is less dramatic — from 2.7 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

French growth expectations have also been lowered, although these figures are not available yet. Growth overall in industrialised European countries represented by the OECD has been revised downwards to only 1.6 per cent this year, from the 2.6 per cent estimated in December. However, the OECD has stuck with its December forecast of 2.7 per cent growth in 1997.

The forecast is preliminary and only gives individual predictions for the US, Japan and Germany. Figures for the UK will be published next week.

Kuni Shigehara, chief economist of the OECD, said that the latest forecasts take no account of a new fiscal package announced by Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, which will drain another DM70 billion from its already struggling economy. Nor do they incorporate a pledge by Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, of further stringent spending cuts.

Mr Shigehara said that he would have to take a "more solid" look at the numbers before making a judgment on their impact on growth. This suggests he revise them again next month.

The OECD has also revised its forecast for America and Japan. In the case of the US this partly reflects a change in the way it measures gross domestic product, which effectively takes 0.9 per cent off GDP. The OECD is now forecasting 2.3 per cent growth for the US this year, rather than 2.7 per cent. Taking account of the statistical change, however, this is an upward revision. Japan is expected to grow by 2.2 per cent this year, up on the 2 per cent predicted six months ago.

Child labour deal, page 26



BA launches search for £1bn efficiencies

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH AIRWAYS, which yesterday reported record annual pre-tax profits of £885 million, is seeking a further £1 billion of efficiencies by the year 2000.

Robert Ayling, BA's chief executive, said that the target would be achieved through cost savings, better use of assets and increased revenues, but said that he could not be more specific. He said: "I'm setting objectives for my

ers to find the best way, consistent with our objective to improve customer service, to reduce costs."

BA expects to have to make £350 million of efficiency improvements just to keep pace with competitive pressures. Derek Stevens, finance director, said that BA is £200 million a year less profitable than it ought to be.

The British Airline Pilots Association, which yesterday announced plans for a strike ballot, blamed BA's cost-cutting for the company's intransi-

gence over a new pay deal for its 3,100 pilots and flight engineers.

Mr Ayling said BA's pay offer was one-and-a-half times the rate of inflation. Pilots will also each receive £5,000 to £6,000 in BA's £94 million profit-sharing payout to staff. Mr Ayling said that this was a record bonus payment by a British company. BA's 55,000 employees, who already own 4 per cent of its shares, can receive an extra 20 per cent if they take their bonus in shares.

Mr Ayling, who refused to comment

on reports that BA is near a deal with American Airlines, is today due at a board meeting of USAir, of which BA owns 24 per cent. BA is unhappy with its progress on cutting labour costs.

Setting aside last year's provision for USAir, BA's £88 million profit for the year to March 31 was 29.4 per cent up. Revenues rose by 8.1 per cent, to £7.8 billion. A final dividend of 9.8p lifts the total payout 10.1 per cent, to 13.65p.

Tempus, page 28

Germany EMU legal challenge

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY

A FORMER Bundesbank director said yesterday he would sue the German Government to stop European Monetary Union. Wilhelm Nölling, who retired from the Bundesbank in 1992, said in London that such a court challenge could delay monetary union for five years or more.

Herr Nölling added, in an article published in *The Times* today, that even the threat of court action would "destabilise foreign exchange" markets and create "severe political problems" for the plan to create a single currency in 1999. The court ruled in 1993 that Germany could only join EMU if the treaty's "convergence criteria" calling for the deficit to be reduced to 3 per cent were strictly applied. Herr Nölling says "economic policy or model" would allow Germany's deficit to be lowered in time.

Article, page 16

Incoming government may be forced to increase taxes

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

LABOUR could find itself forced to raise interest rates and taxes by up to 7p if it wins the next election, a leading City commentator claimed yesterday.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS, the broker, predicts that Labour could inherit a surging budget deficit and rising inflation. He also criticises Labour's intention to deliver higher sustainable economic growth through a higher rate of investment and economic stability.

Mr Martin argues that the attempt by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to revive the "feel-good" factor through lower interest rates is in danger of getting "out of hand". He predicts the recent growth in broad money supply will continue to accelerate over the coming year and that, the longer an election date is delayed, the harder it will be for the new government to resist immediate rate rises.

An incoming Labour government is also likely to face a "potentially explosive structural budget deficit". The UBS report, called "Labour Economics", criticises current government forecasts for reducing public borrowing as based on "implausible assumptions" about public spending and economic growth.

There has been increasing concern about shortfalls in tax revenues, with most City economists predicting the Government will overshoot its PSBR target.

City Diary 29

cent-GDP deficit target might require tax increases or spending cuts on the scale delivered by the Budgets of 1993: perhaps equivalent to 7p on income taxes."

The new government's weak fiscal position and tight money policies are also likely to push the value of sterling upwards, especially if Labour flirts with a revamped European exchange-rate mechanism. A strong pound would hit industrial competitiveness and hurt the manufacturing sector.

Mr Martin, who is also an adviser to MPs on the all-party Treasury Select Committee, forecasts that Labour will set a medium-term growth trend rate of 3 per cent and an inflation target of 2.5 per cent. But he argues that economic stability is not enough in itself to guarantee growth.

UBS believes that Labour is unlikely to indulge in "City bashing" and will resist large increases in corporation tax and may well limit the scope of its proposed tightening of dividend tax regulations.

Europe tackles sexual harassment at work

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE European Commission wants all medium-sized companies to appoint counsellors as part of new measures to combat sexual harassment at work.

Commission officials have largely completed the drafting of a consultative document which is to be issued to representatives of employers and employees in each member country.

The Commission will not, however, bring forward the measures, included in a consultative document, as a new piece of Europe-wide legislation because some countries — especially

Britain — would be expected to oppose it.

Instead, the Commission will ask the EU's social partners — Europe's main employer and trade union bodies — to negotiate a Europe-wide collective agreement on sexual harassment at work. That collective agreement will then, under the terms of Maastricht, be carried forward into new law.

This is expected to include a code of practice in which Brussels will set out what it sees as the standards to which employers ought to adhere in handling sexual harassment in the workplace.

The Commission will also propose the idea that all businesses employing,

say, more than 500 people should appoint a senior manager with responsibility for dealing with issues of sexual harassment within the company.

The Commission is also to issue a new code of practice for employers on equal pay for equal value, under which employees can claim new pay levels if they can successfully show that their work is of equal value to employers as other more highly-paid work.

Fiona Flynn, the European Social Affairs Commissioner, told an Equal Opportunities Commission conference in London yesterday that he hoped the idea of a code "will succeed where legal procedures have failed to achieve equality in practice".

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LEGAL EXPERTISE COMMERCIAL ADVICE

REGULATED IN THE CONDUCT OF INVESTMENT BUSINESS BY THE LIA SOCIETY

Railtrack float lifts British Energy hopes

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PROSPECTS for the Government's next big sell-off — British Energy — looked more hopeful after the stock-market flotation of Railtrack.

The appetite for Railtrack, which started trading yesterday, should offer a degree of optimism to those organising the sale of Britain's more modern nuclear generators amid the gathering pessimism over its likely valuation. Nigel Hawkins, utility analyst at Yamaichi, said: "If

Railtrack had not gone well, it would have been unlikely that British Energy would have got off the starting block. As it is, the signs are reasonable for a July flotation."

British Energy, whose marketing campaign kicks off next Tuesday, will prove a more challenging privatisation than Railtrack because of the emotive nature of nuclear energy and because of the level of debt the company will take with it.

Critics of the sale, including the Labour Party, claim that the sell-off

will form the biggest giveaway to date. Early valuations pitched the company's worth at £2.6 billion, but it is thought that the price could now fall as low as £1.5 billion.

City forecasts that will determine interest and the pricing will focus on the likely price for electricity. Pool prices, the prices of power in the wholesale market, are widely expected to fall to a lower level than calculated by BZW, the brokers advising the Government on the issue. Because nuclear generators

supply baseload electricity they are unable to influence pricing.

The flotation will be further dogged by problems over the past year at some of British Energy's stations such as Dungeness, Heysham and Hunterston B. BZW has said that the core of some of the stations which have been off-stream with technical problems are as good as new. But the closure of a station would severely affect British Energy's prospects as the company comprises just eight reactors.

The marketing of British Energy

has been sculpted by the Lowe Howard Spitk advertising agency, whose clients include Tesco, Vauxhall and Whitbread.

In TV, radio and newspaper campaign next week will accompany publication of the prospectus in June. Then, a string of Share Shops in high-street banks and other financial institutions will open to public registrations. Like Railtrack, the Government is planning to save 30 per cent of the shares for public purchase. Mid-July is the sell-off date.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Amec's chairman gets 63% pay rise

SIR Alan Cockshaw, chairman of Amec, enjoyed a 63 per cent rise in his total pay package, to £428,000, thanks to the building company's successful defence against a takeover bid from Kvaerner. Sir Alan received a total bonus of £126,340, including an £85,000 bonus for acting as both chairman and chief executive of Amec before the appointment of Peter Mason as chief executive at the beginning of this year. He also received a 9 per cent rise in basic pay, to £260,000, and a 14 per cent increase in pension contributions, to £51,200.

Sir Alan's pay increase came in spite of the company suffering a 20.5 per cent decline in its full-year pre-tax profits, to £15.9 million, in 1995, after incurring £4 million in costs from the takeover battle, in which he led the defence to Kvaerner's £300 million bid. Amec shares were marooned as low as 56p before Kvaerner made its offer, which was pitched at 100p a share. Amec shares closed last night unchanged, at 114p.

Cheque transactions

BANK customers could benefit from a faster and more efficient service as a result of the new cheque-handling system proposed by the Government yesterday. An order laid before Parliament removes "unnecessary and outdated" restrictions on banks. Paperless settlement of cheques — or "frictionless" — is already commonplace in many European countries. Under the new system, there would be no need to send cheques back to the branch of the customer who issued them.

Oil prices bounce back

OIL prices rebounded yesterday after an early slide, taking Iraq's acceptance of a UN oil-for-food plan in their stride. Benchmark Brent blend futures for July delivery shed 79 cents to touch \$16.75 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange, before recovering to \$17.72 as traders awaited evidence of a cast-iron deal. Jim Placke, of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, said: "What we're seeing is classic market behaviour ... to discount future events and also to over-react to news, so we may already have seen much of the impact."

Homes 'in short supply'

A SHORTAGE of homes for sale is continuing to hold back the recovery in the housing market, estate agents said yesterday. Prospective buyers were out in force in April because of fiercely competitive mortgage rates and renewed consumer confidence, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said after its monthly survey of the housing market. However, too many vendors were waiting for prices, which continued to edge up, to rise more steeply before putting their homes on the market, creating a shortfall of properties, it said.

SIB supervision head

THE Securities and Investments Board, the City watchdog, has seconded David Pritchard, group treasurer of Hill Samuel since 1994 and a senior LloydsTSB executive, as head of supervision of standards in its markets and exchanges division for two years. It supervises and sets standards for seven recognised investment exchanges, the London Clearing House and a number of market service providers. It expects to supervise Crest when it starts operations in July, and is also the focal point for SIB's international work.

Lauder's telecoms aim

RONALD S. LAUDER, heir to the Estée Lauder cosmetics group, yesterday launched a telecommunications company, called RSL Com Europe, and announced buying the German and French operations of Sprint, the third-largest US long-distance carrier. Sprint had to sell them to join Global One, a venture with France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom. RSL is seeking custom from small and medium-sized businesses in Britain and continental Europe, where it aims to build a base before deregulation in 1998. *Scents of success, page 29*

New Jefferson chief

JEFFERSON SMURFIT GROUP, the paper and packaging company based in Dublin, has appointed a new chairman and chief executive for its Irish and British operations. Dublin-born Peter Webster, who has been with the group for 18 years and was Smurfit Ireland/UK's regional operations director, succeeds Patrick Wright, who, earlier this month, was made president and chief operations officer of the group. In April, the Jefferson Smurfit Group announced record pre-tax profits of £142 million for its global operations.

US Can turns to Wales

US CAN, the American aerosol manufacturer, is establishing a £30 million, 200,000 sq ft production factory in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. This is the company's first investment in Europe and it will create 120 jobs when production begins next year. US Can, which has 30 plants across North America, is a leading supplier of aerosols in the US, producing 50 per cent of all aerosol cans sold there. It is keen to tap the £3.5 billion European market.

Aberdeen Trust boost

ABERDEEN TRUST, the investment manager, has lifted its interim dividend 42.8 per cent to 1p, after a 20 per cent profit rise to £3.35 million in the six months to the end of March. The dividend will be paid on July 17. Funds under management doubled to £2.81 billion year-on-year, benefiting from improved global stock markets and a stronger US dollar. The trust has entered into an alliance with Phoenix Home Life of the US, lifting its balance sheet by \$37.5 million.

Spotlight on issue of child labour

FROM JANET BUNIH IN PARIS

THE US and Europe seem to have struck a deal to set up a working group to look at the issue of trade with countries that condone child labour, a big source of disagreement at the jobs summit in France earlier this year.

In return, the US has promised it will play its part to make progress in negotiations towards a multilateral agreement on investment designed to bring down barriers to international investment.

US officials at the annual meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, starting here today, said that they had won agreement for the establishment of the working party at the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December.

Britain had hoped that the trade and labour standards question would be kept away from the WTO and examined more narrowly by the International Labour Organisation.

It has consistently opposed examining the question of whether some developing countries are winning a greater share of world trade by employing low labour standards.

It has argued that industrialised countries must compete by liberalising their own markets, not penalising others. It is suspicious that America and France, which have pushed the trade and labour standards issue, will use it as an excuse to reintroduce protectionism by the back door.

Britain appears to have lost this argument. However, the US seems to be throwing its weight behind efforts to tie up a "state of the art agreement" on international investment in time for next year's OECD meeting in May.

The drive to lower hurdles to international investment is a matter that the European Union has been pushing for.



Michael Heseltine at the Forbidden City in Peking yesterday, where British businessmen were promoting trade

National Home Loans lifts profits but fails to cut rates

By SARA MCCONNELL

NATIONAL Home Loans Group, the centralised mortgage lender, yesterday posted pre-tax profits of £8.2 million for the half-year to March 31, an increase of 34 per cent over the first half of the previous year, and restored the interim dividend at 1.1p a share.

But the group held out no immediate hope of a rate cut for those among its 30,000 borrowers still paying a stan-

dard rate of 10.65 per cent. The Halifax's standard rate is 7.25 per cent.

Jonathan Perry, chairman of NHL, said its rate was "not remotely outrageous". Mr Perry argued that many borrowers paying this rate would not have been able to get loans elsewhere because they did not satisfy traditional lending criteria. Centralised lenders gained market share during

the housing boom of the late 1980s by offering self-certification mortgages, where borrowers vouched for their own income, or low-start loans, where interest is rolled up. Many borrowers subsequently found themselves in debt as interest rates rose and house prices fell.

More than half of NHL's 30,000 borrowers have been in arrears at some time and

many are in negative equity. The higher rate represents the higher risk posed by these borrowers, said Mr Perry, and was necessary to balance and rebuild the company.

NHL was forced to withdraw from the mortgage market in 1991 and only re-entered 18 months ago, after a financial restructuring.

It now sells mortgages through Homeloans Direct,

Canadians agree ERF takeover

ERF Holdings, Britain's last remaining manufacturer of heavy trucks, seems set to slip into overseas ownership with an agreed bid from Western Star Trucks, the Canadian group (Philip Pangalos writes).

Western Star already controls about 52.4 per cent of ERF's equity and its recommended cash offer values each ERF share at 27.5p and the whole group at £27.4

million. The offer also carries a full share alternative and a loan note alternative.

ERF, which employs 900, has nearly 10 per cent of the UK heavy truck market.

Peter Foden, ERF's chairman and chief executive, said: "We will still be a 'British' manufacturer, and jobs will probably be more secure in the long term. The proposal is attractive for ERF shareholders

and should secure a dynamic future for ERF and its employees."

ERF's pre-tax profits fell to £1.82 million in the year to March 30, from £2.28 million last time. Turnover from continuing operations rose by 8 per cent, to £217.6 million (£202.4 million). A second interim dividend of 2.5p makes a 4.5p total payout. ERF shares rose 7p, to 280p.

its mortgage lending company.

HLD is concentrating on niche markets, such as loans to housing associations and to borrowers looking to rent out properties as investments. It has to date received 3,775 applications totalling £17.5 million. Offers issued and applications in progress total 2,141, with a value of £9.6 million.

The group says it is still making losses on the National Home Loans Corporation mortgage book, which contains the group's loss-making loans, although provisions for bad debts in the six months to March 1996 were £4.2 million, compared with £6.5 million in the same period of last year. A total of 3,124 homes were repossessed in the first six months to March this year, only slightly down on the same period of 1995.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	1.98	1.93
Austria Sch	17.93	18.40
Belgium Fr	50.70	44.40
Canada \$	2.176	2.018
Cyprus Cyp	0.751	0.750
Danmark Kr	5.53	5.51
Eireland Mtl	7.72	7.07
France Fr	8.27	7.82
Germany DM	5.24	5.20
Greece Dr	36.00	35.00
Hong Kong \$	12.34	11.34
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Italy Lira	5,500.00	4,650.00
Japan Yen	176.90	160.00
Malta	0.587	0.532
Netherlands Gld	2.35	2.18
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.14
Norway Kr	10.50	9.70
Portugal Esc	248.50	235.00
R.A. Irl	1.95	1.88
Spain Pes	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	10.98	10.08
Switzerland Fr	2.03	1.85
Turkey Lira	120.00	111.00
USA \$	1.405	1.479

Rates for small denominations only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply in travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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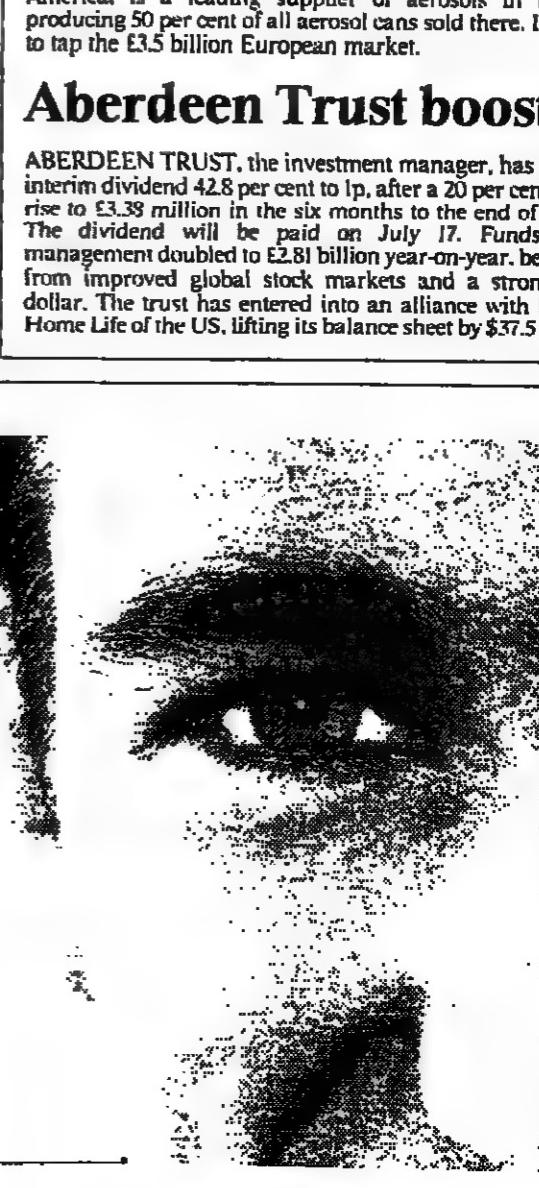
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□ Pru faces questions on bonuses □ Civil penalties the key to stock market crime □ The stags have their day

□ WHAT fun to see the mighty and normally po-faced Prudential hoist with its own petard. Whereas the country's biggest institutional investor normally fights in the front rank in any assault on bonuses that overly reward management, the Pru has instead been "outed" by PIRC, the pensions pressure group that is equally hawkish on executive pay, for planning to be too generous to its executives.

Next Wednesday shareholders in the Pru will vote on the new bonus scheme, which pays out to executives if the company's performance is less than average. That is one way of looking at it: the scheme kicks in if the institution manages to scrape into 59th position among FT-SE 100 stocks. Executives must be incentivised with free shares for a mediocre performance, or they might go elsewhere.

This is the hawkish view. The Pru is one of more than a dozen companies, several of them household names, that have been identified by PIRC as planning overly generous bonuses for executives. The latter has drawn up five guidelines that bonus schemes should obey. First, they should be long-term, over five years ideally, rather than offering executives an immediate smash-and-grab raid for what might prove to be an unsustainable performance.

Second, they should require some capital commitment from the executives, rather than have shares awarded free. They should be transparent, easily locatable within the accounts and comprehensible to the ordinary investor. The comparators against which performance is measured should be real ones, taking in companies in the same sector for example rather than broad generalisations such as the FT-SE 100 or the market as a whole. Finally, the scheme should go from the top to the bottom of the company.

Judged against these criteria, the Pru's scheme falls down badly. But it is possible to be a little more analytical, and add a sixth. This is that bonus schemes should be so constructed to weight as much of the payout as possible at the top end of the performance curve. The Pru pays out relatively modestly at the bottom end, if the shares come in at 59th position or a little above; only substantial out-performance brings in the rewards. By contrast, a scheme that paid out massively if the shares ended in 50th position or

only a little higher would be a true reward for mediocrity.

As important is the extent that total remuneration is split between straight salary and bonus — is the latter the jam on top of an already generous salary?

A further irony is that the Pru's plans will probably be voted in next Wednesday, through the usual institutional inertia. With some notable exceptions, fund managers on good six-figure salaries tend to be muted in their criticism of boardroom fat-cattery. Some fear that a principled stand might lead to embarrassing questions about their own pay and perks.

How to tackle insider dealers

□ THE next time your house is burgled, it will be little comfort that the policeman who arrives some hours later to offer you counselling and not much else probably knows the identity of the intruder. Burglaries tend to be the work of the same local faces, and the police know them well. The difficulty is in making

likely to be more suspicion but not many more prosecutions.

The problem with insider trading law is that it requires positive proof of intention to commit the crime, rather than merely allowing that intention to be deduced from the circumstances. Brokers buy and sell shares all the time, and any purchase, however fortuitous, can be passed off as the normal course of business.

The Stock Exchange knows well who they are. The way that the law is drafted makes it almost impossible to translate suspicion into criminal charges and conviction.

Last year 1,500 examples of suspicious trading were identified, but just 43 were passed on to the prosecuting authorities. The exchange plans to bring in, this summer, "artificial intelligence" — computers, to you and me — to correlate share price movements and identify dubious trading patterns. Without wholesale redrafting of the law, the effect is

things on Wall Street, and it is the preference of both the exchange and the Securities and Investments Board.

A one-way rail track

□ BY the end of the first day's dealing in Railtrack more than 10 per cent of private investors going through one share shop had staged the issue and taken their profit. More than one investor in ten, therefore, has not thought it worthwhile to hang around for the generous 18 per cent return that has been cynically provided for the shares over the next nine months.

How many of the remaining 90 per cent will still be in after that, rather than taking the easy way out once that return has been gathered in? And how, as ministers and advisers pose smiling for the inevitable photo opportunities celebrating the "success" of the penultimate privatisation, can this be expected to widen and deepen share ownership?

Clare Short may be becoming increasingly incoherent on the

subject, as her enemies within New Labour claim, but she has got one thing right. If you price something cheaply enough, it will sell. You attract the public with a built-in discount in full value, and this interest from the stags keeps the City short of the shares, ensuring a scramble for them once trading starts — and a profit for those same stags. The City is buying because it is prepared to take the risk of tighter regulation under Labour. Wait for a further rush of private selling once the interim dividend has been paid next February.

French connection

□ JEAN-CLAUDE PAYE may have been a dutiful servant of the OECD for the past 12 years but he is also a scion of the French political establishment. He has much in common with Michel Camdessus, head of the IMF. Both preside over organisations whose ambition goes far beyond Europe. Both purport to publish independent economic forecasts. Both have had to admit that the drive towards Maastricht is destroying growth. Ask either if the single currency can go ahead and they cannot bring themselves to express their real doubts. Loyalty is an admirable virtue, but are we really getting the analysis we deserve on the future of Europe?

Cancer drug speculation sees British Biotech soar

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH BIOTECH, the darling of the high-flying biotechnology sector, seemed well on its way to becoming a £2 billion company yesterday after investors pushed up the shares in anticipation of positive clinical results from its most important cancer drug.

The City believes that British Biotech, whose finance director is James Noble, will probably announce this morning that the latest trials of Marimastat have been strong enough to warrant the start of so-called Phase 3 trials.

The speculation is that the results from the Phase 2 trials will show that the drug, designed to halt the spread of cancerous tumours, is effective in a low-dose form and that the side effects detected in previous trials have not become any more severe.

Historically, a drug that enters Phase 3 trials has about a 60 per cent chance of coming to market. In valuing British Biotech shares, analysts must estimate the size of the market

that Marimastat can address.

The drug's potential penetration of that market, the sales price and the revenue decline once it loses its patent protection. Valuations vary considerably, but some brokers think that the company could be worth as much as £40 a share if today's results indicate that Marimastat will eventually go into commercial production.

If the results are negative or inconclusive, the shares could plummet. One investment firm expects the shares to fall to about £15 if Marimastat does not proceed to Phase 3 trials. There is no real "floor" price because the company has no earnings and no products on the market.

British Biotech shares closed at a record £30.30, up 185p,

valuing the company at £1.76 billion, or about £120 million

more than its market capitalisation on Friday. Volume was almost 1 million shares, against the normal daily trading of 3,000 shares. The shares have risen by more than 600 per cent in the past 12 months.

One analyst said he was keen on the company because of the broad market potential of Marimastat.

The drug is designed to slow the spread of nine different tumours, ranging from ovarian tumours to head and neck tumours.

If British Biotech shares soar again today, the entire sector is likely to rise with it. A year ago, the market capitalisation of the seven quoted biotechnology companies was about £1 billion.

There are now a dozen quoted biotechnology companies, with a combined market capitalisation of about £4.5 billion.

Noble announcement close

Savoy aims for hotel restoration

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SAVOY Hotel yesterday announced a £60 million boost to capital expenditure plans in an attempt to restore the company's historic hotels.

The company also confirmed it was suing Simmonds and Simmonds, a firm of lawyers, over the £9 million sale of the Lancaster hotel in Paris to a French consortium.

The dispute centres on the use of an unsecured promissory note as part-payment for the deal. The £4.1 million note is not due to be redeemed until 1998.

Ramon Pajares, managing director, told the annual meeting that the investment was necessary as many rooms were not up to modern standards. But Sir Ewen Fergusson, chairman, said that there would be a fall-off in occupancy levels as rooms were closed for repairs.

Alex Bernstein and Gerry Robinson are to join the board as Granada's representatives after the resignation of Sir Rocco Forte and Sir Anthony Tennant.

Acquisitive Seton in good health

By ERIC REGULY

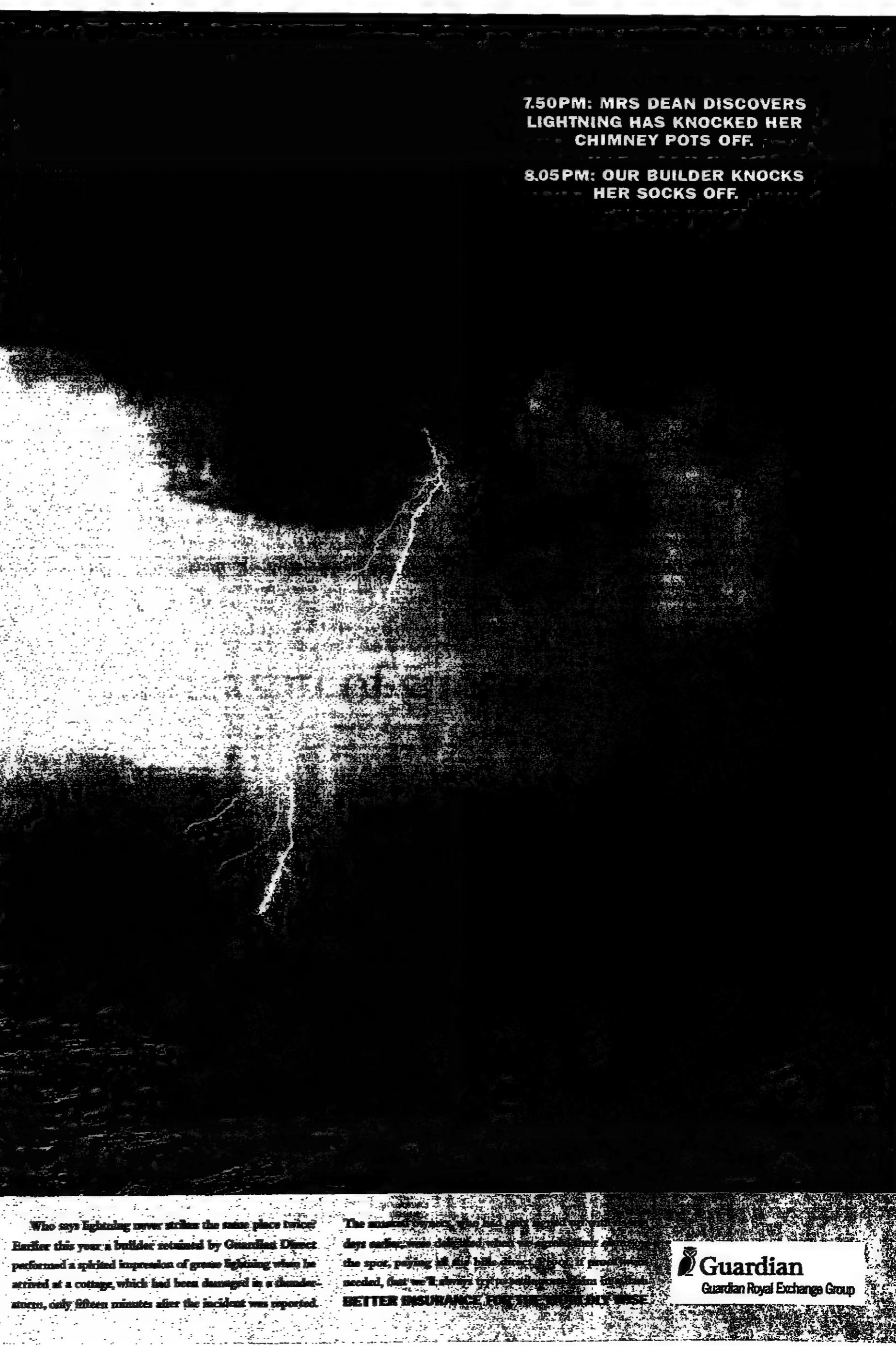
SETON HEALTHCARE yesterday announced its strongest profits since its flotation in 1990 and said it would continue making acquisitions in the British market.

Seton, which specialises in wound care, infection control and orthopaedics products, reported pre-tax profits of £16.4 million, up 52 per cent, on turnover of £84.9 million, up 38 per cent. About £9 million of the turnover gain came from acquisitions.

Earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 24.6p. A final dividend of 5.5p is to be paid on July 31, making the total dividend 7.9p, up 14 per cent.

The company said that economies of scale pushed operating margins from 19.1 per cent to 20.9 per cent.

Roger Humphreys, finance director, said that Seton will probably make as many acquisitions this year as it did last year. In 1995-96, it spent about £51 million on purchases, including Gastrocote and Simpla Plastics.



Who says lightning never strikes the same place twice?

Earlier this year a builder retained by *Guardian Direct* performed a spirited impression of gross lightning when he arrived at a cottage, which had been damaged in a thunderstorm, only fifteen minutes after the incident was reported.

The insurance company's claims manager, Steve

days earlier, was called to the spot, paying off old bills and settling new ones. All that was needed, *Guardian Direct* say, was a few moments of lightning.

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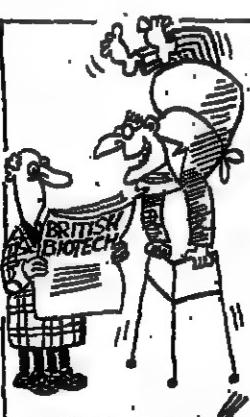
CITY
DIARY

Taste of trouble at the Savoy

HUNGRY shareholders attacked the Savoy Hotel Group at its AGM yesterday — for its poor performance on the buffet table. The first complainant from the floor sniffed at past AGM reports, saying it was "too little, and served too slowly... the waiter was besieged as if by a swarm of locusts". After an apology from Sir Ewen Ferguson, chairman, a former Forte shareholder announced that the canapés were far worse under Sir Rocco at that company's annual meetings. Admitting that "flow of food" had been a problem in the past, Ramon Pajares, Savoy Group managing director, said: "This year there was more quantity and more waiters."

Surfing UBS

A RATHER sad profile is piecing together of Bill Martin, the UBS chief economist who took six weeks out of his life to study the Labour Party economy. The 45-year-old economist, ranked fourth in the UK, has a BA in social studies from Exeter University. He worked for eight years at the DTI and for two years at the Cabinet Office Central Policy Review Staff. The father of two teenagers, who lives in Billerica, says he plays music on full volume to relax — "anything from rock to baroque". Having done nothing but work on his project for almost two months, he is looking forward to some surfing — on the Internet.



Note of surprise
JOHN BAKER attended his first press conference as chairman of the English National Operatic Society yesterday. Perhaps better known as chief executive of National Power, Baker said he was a touch surprised when asked to join the ENO board. "After all, when a business asks one to join its board, you wonder what they have hidden away," he whispered.

Tea returns

THE Halifax Building Society may be breaking with its mutual past by becoming a bank but there are some traditions it is happy to preserve. At last year's AGM, there was no tea, as extra time was needed to discuss the society's conversion plans. But yesterday the honourable practice of taking tea was resumed, with those attending at Halifax's Victoria theatre repairing upstairs for refreshment.

Negative feeling
A ROW has erupted in Stockton-on-Tees after the council's admission that it is paying Lord Lichfield more than £10,000 to photograph the area for a calendar. The council's City Challenge department is confident that local companies will cover the cost of the two-week shoot, but Stocktonians are dubious. Stephen Smailes, a Tory councillor, brands the commission "wasteful". He says: "We have enough professional photographers in this town who could have done the job for a lot less money."

MORAG PRESTON

Major's stance is out of step with British business

Key companies and unions are changing their tune on European issues, says Philip Bassett

John Major is expected today to emphasise to Britain's business leaders the importance of the Government's stance on Europe, nor just on the beef industry, after yesterday's Brussels' decision. More significantly for business generally, the Prime Minister will discuss the importance of maintaining the Government's opt-outs on the single currency, and the minimum job standards of the European social chapter.

But before Mr Major's speech to the Confederation of British Industry's annual dinner, employers will join with senior European officials and trade union leaders to take a rather different view of British business in Europe: a Europe built on co-operation, where minimum work standards are accepted and are built on social partnership between business and its employees.

Sir Brian Nicholson, the CBI president, will use his own speech to mount a strong defence of British business interests in Europe. He will attack those advocating European withdrawal and will emphasise the importance of maintaining competitiveness in European economic and constitutional moves.

In addition to the Prime Minister's statements, the CBI leader will reject the idea that all regulation from Europe is unhelpful and a burden on business. He will call instead for both the right kind and the right mix of regulation, aimed at improving competitiveness across Europe.

But earlier in the day, key business and European leaders will be taking a rather different line, an approach which reflects the characteristically more pragmatic line from business. At a conference organised by the Transport and General Workers' Union, Rover will spell out its commitment to minimum standards, to co-operation and to partnership. Local government leaders will do the same.

For shareholders, Anne Simpson, PIRC director, will emphasise the importance to shareowners of a "high performance" workplace, while the head of the European Commission's social affairs directorate, Allan Larsson, will emphasise the centrality of the partnership approach in Europe.

For the unions in the UK, John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, will set out how he sees the relationship with a future government. For Labour, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will underline that all this will be central to the way an incoming Labour government will operate.

Last week, the Bank of England set out its preparations for a single European currency, which it is making whether or not Britain eventually decides to join. Similarly, the EEF engineering employers made clear the practical line many British companies are taking on the introduction of European works councils (EWCs), in



Car care: Rover will spell out its commitment to minimum job standards

spite of the Government's social chapter opt-out.

The pragmatism reflected in these approaches will be demonstrated today on what is for many businesses the still-controversial area of minimum standards at work. For business, one of the key impacts of a possible future Labour government will be its adherence to minimum standards — a minimum wage in the UK and the abandonment of the Government's opt-out on employment affairs, instead signing the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

In the belief that a Labour government is now a genuine possibility, business is looking hard at more cooperative ways of working. And increasingly, too, it is not finding the view as appalling as had been forecast. Faced with ferocious competition from Japanese inward investors like Nissan, Honda and Toyota, Rover — now German-owned — will today emphasise how important to the competitiveness of the business it sees its

pioneering partnership agreement with the TGWU, which offers a guarantee of job security in return for a range of work flexibilities.

Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, accepts that the co-operative tone of today's move is a very far cry from the largely combative note his and other UK unions used to strike — strike usually being the operative word.

"The trade unions, and the TGWU in particular," he says, "have to have a role in making a contribution towards global competitiveness." Such language used to see other union leaders attacked and abused by their union colleagues. Not any more. "The argument is different now," says Mr Morris. "The world has changed. We're not in competition with the factory next door. We're in competition with the factory 10,000 miles away."

Mr Morris now talks the language of international competitiveness with a will. He now talks of how trade unionism used to be in the UK, that

"we mistook the enemy", and accepts that the conflict model of trade unionism, given both still-high unemployment and high levels of insecurity for people in work, offers little to employers or employees.

Instead, what he and the TGWU — backed by the TUC, which is running its own conference in the City on Thursday on the parallel theme of stakeholding — now offer employers is agreements: agreements which increase companies' profitability and competitiveness, and which offer minimum standards on a range of employment issues, including pay, hours and job security.

Unions led by the TGWU are now bargaining with companies on these points. At national level, Britain's principal business bodies are engaged in a round of delicate talks with the TUC on minimum standards agreements.

The unions' pitch on minimum standards has behind it the belief that companies would be better adopting baseline employment practices rather than see them imposed either by a future Labour government, or by Brussels — either now or once any future Labour government has signed the social chapter.

While some employers are clearly being drawn to this line, others remain wary, glancing over their shoulder at the legislative flow still coming from Brussels on social issues. Though Conservative ministers insist that the flow has been stanchied because of Britain's opt-out, some new employment law is still coming forward.

For instance, under the first EU social affairs council of the Italian presidency, employment ministers from across Europe finally reached agreement — by qualified majority voting, pulling in the 62 out of 87 votes necessary to secure it, with the UK and Portugal opposing — on the draft directive on so-called "posted" workers.

First introduced in 1991 in an effort to end social dumping — companies shifting units to lower-cost areas of production — the directive will set minimum pay rates, hours of work and leave for employees sent to work temporarily in another EU member states. The agreement will be formalised next month, with implementation in all member states, including the UK, in three years.

Political agreement has also been reached between all EU member states bar the UK, which exercised its opt-out, on the parental leave directive, setting minimum standards for both men and women. It includes the right to up to three months unpaid leave following the birth of a child, protection from dismissal and the right to return to the same or equivalent job. Implementation will be in two years, in all EU states except Britain while the opt-out continues. However, employees of UK companies working in any other EU member state will be covered by the directive.

Such moves are precisely the kind of measures from Europe which the Prime Minister intends to resist. A Labour government would clearly mean business adapting to a different approach to Europe. But even in advance of the next general election key companies in Britain are shifting ground towards minimum job standards, towards co-operation and towards partnership.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Relax, let the bears growl

Back in mid-February, when the Dow Jones industrial average first poked its head above 5,600, I wrote in this column that Wall Street could be set for a temporary correction, but that long-term investors should hold on to their shares. Wall Street was likely to go well above 5,600 before it fell into a long-dreaded bear market.

I also argued that, despite the widespread expectations of an imminent crash on Wall Street, American shares at 5,600 were a safer bet than Japanese shares at 20,900 on the Nikkei index or Hong Kong stocks at 11,300. Most British fund managers, by contrast, were expecting a collapse on Wall Street (and a setback for shares in London), while they were wildly enthusiastic about the prospects for capital gains in the Far East.

Since British fund managers have usually been wrong in reading international investment trends, and especially trends on Wall Street, it seemed reasonable to look for reasons why they might again be mistaken. Such reasons ranging from the political threat from China to the high valuations of Japanese shares.

Three months later, someone who invested in this contrarian spirit would have experienced mixed results.

The main message — that the spring correction would not mark the end of the US bull market — seemed to be vindicated yesterday when the Dow finally burst through 5,700. The London market has, as usual, shadowed the Dow and has risen about 1.5 per cent since mid-February. Hong Kong, too, has performed roughly as expected: the Hang Seng index is still floundering well below its February high and is 10 per cent lower than the all-time record it hit in early 1994. Thus, anyone who invested in Hong Kong at the height of the emerging market craze (and that includes most British institutions) would still be showing a loss, while anybody who bought US equities would be 42 per cent ahead.

Tokyo, on the other hand, has this year defied bearish predictions and repaid the faith of the British institutions. The Nikkei average is now 5 per cent higher than it

was three months ago. In the medium term, however, the huge British bet on Tokyo has proved a poor one, since Japanese shares are still worth only about half what they were in 1990. In fact, for an investment in Japanese shares to have done better than a similar investment in London or Wall Street, the shares would have had to be bought in 1984 or before — and even then, the small relative gain in Japan would have been due entirely to currency movements.

The question now is what may happen in the period ahead and where the institutions will set to invest our savings. The latest Merrill Lynch survey of big fund managers published two weeks ago showed the usual inverse correlation between the views of the supposed experts and market reality on Wall Street. The survey, conducted in the first week of May, showed the British bears growling more fiercely than ever. The last time the British institutions were as gloomy as this about Wall Street was in November 1994: the great bull market started exactly a month later. This time, too, Wall Street behaved on cue. The market bottomed out on May 9, the day the gloomy Merrill Lynch survey was published. It rose by 5 per cent in the next ten trading days.

As long as British and other foreign investors remain so sceptical about Wall Street, US shares (as well as the dollar) will probably continue to move up. Bearish fund managers could be a huge potential source of new money once they succumb to the American dream. And the British institutions, despite their persistent misjudgments, control more pension fund savings than the rest of Europe put together.

Once you start hearing from Wall Street that "the British are coming" (or, better, that the Japanese are coming) you will know it will soon be time to get out. My hunch, however, is that the British actuaries are a stubborn lot. More months will pass before they are sucked into this bull market. And as long as the experts remain bearish, individual investors can relax; the experts will continue to be proved wrong.

Eric Reguly meets a multi-talented heir to the Lauder billions

Rich man with scent of success



Lauder name allows Ron Lauder to do virtually anything he wants

Ronald S. Lauder is one of those rare executives who moves frequently, and seemingly effortlessly, between the worlds of business politics and public service. An heir to Estée Lauder, the make-up, skin-care and fragrance empire that practically invented the "hope in a jar" concept and gave Elizabeth Hurley her highest-paying job, he has been a US Ambassador, a Pentagon adviser and a New York City mayoral candidate.

His latest incarnation is chairman and controlling shareholder of RSL Communications, the telecoms company that yesterday launched its British service and announced the purchase of the French and German operations of Sprint, America's third largest long-distance carrier.

Mr Lauder, 52, has high hopes for RSL — he says he wants to make it the world's largest privately owned telecoms company — but he clearly has no interest in letting it dominate his business schedule.

There are too many opportunities elsewhere, especially in Eastern Europe. Central European Media Enterprises, his television company in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Slovenia, is expanding rapidly and needs attention, and he wants to build on his reputation as the patron of high living in liberalized Budapest.

There he spent more than \$20 million to transform the Gundel restaurant from what he calls "a Wimpey's of Eastern Europe".

in 1989 ran against David Dinkins and Rudolph Giuliani for mayor of New York. His wealth, his famous name and his free-enterprise ideals won him a blaze of publicity but little else. Steve Forbes, the heir to the Forbes media fortune, used the same losing formula in this year's presidential race.

The Lauder name allows Ron Lauder to do virtually anything he wants. The company is considered glamorous and well-respected: it is a textbook case on how to build and sustain an upmarket image and transform it into a world brand. Estée Lauder began to sell internationally in the early 1960s — Harrods was its first foreign outlet — and

overseas sales now account for half or more of its business. Mr Lauder is chairman of the international arm.

Estée is not, as legend went, a countess who grew up rich in some Habsburg castle. She was born Josephine Esther Mentzer in Queens, New York, of a Hungarian mother and Czechoslovakian father and lived over a hardware store. With the help of an uncle, she invented a face cream that she called Super-Rich All Purpose Cream, and convinced a couple of salons to allow her to use it on their clients. Before long she had invented a range of cosmetics and, in 1946, she convinced Saks Fifth Avenue, the department store, to sell her products at its beauty counters.

Next came a perfume and bath oil called Youth Dew, which at one point was the world's best-selling fragrance. Estée always sold to well-heeled women who could afford to pay a premium for image.

When companies such as L'Oréal introduced more expansive ranges, Estée Lauder simply raised its prices. As part of a tax and succession-planning effort last year, Estée Lauder joined the stock market in a flotation that valued the group at almost \$3 billion.

It is not known how much Ron Lauder is worth, but the family still owns 58 per cent of Estée Lauder's equity. That would make Mr Lauder something close to a billionaire. With his wealth and company name behind him, it appears Mr Lauder has many more careers to come.

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Demand for foreign goods boosts imports

Japanese see trade surplus fall to £2bn

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade surplus with the rest of the world in April fell sharply to Y320.66 billion (£2 billion), a decline of two-thirds from a year earlier. It was the seventeenth consecutive month of decline in the trade surplus and was due largely to continued growth in Japan's appetite for imports.

Robust demand for foreign cars, semi-conductors and

office equipment, including computers, helped to boost imports 30.9 per cent. Japan's exports in April rose 5.1 per cent, a relatively slow pace, reflecting the stagnant economic growth of Japan's main trading partners.

The Finance Ministry said the main factor in April's sharp fall in the surplus was the 95.5 per cent rise in meat

imports after the Paris embargo on foreign pork and beef.

The ministry reported the gap in the global trade surplus was down 65.5 per cent from a year earlier, falling to a level lower than many economists had forecast. The politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States plunged 55.6 per cent to £22.09 billion yen, while the trade surplus with the European Union fell 52.2 per cent.

Car imports continue to show strong growth, while exports of Japanese cars were down 5.3 per cent. This was due, in part, to weak economic growth in the US and Europe, which reduced demand for cars, but analysts said a more significant factor is the rapid increase in production in Japan's overseas car plants.

A Finance Ministry official said: "The surplus is expected to remain on the downturn. Imports are likely to continue growing at a much faster pace than exports."

APV profit warning triggers share fall

SHARES in APV, the troubled manufacturer of equipment for the food industry, fell 12.5p to 77p yesterday after a profit warning (Martin Barrow writes).

Sir Peter Caizel, chairman, said at the annual meeting that action to further reduce costs in response

to a decline in orders would cost at least £8 million. The reason for the decline in profitability was "weak demand" in core markets.

In 1995, APV's pre-tax profits were £26.9 million on turnover of £881.9 million.

Tempus, page 28



Dr Michael Sinclair, left, chairman of SMH, and Kate Bleasdale, second right, chief executive, with nursing staff

Healthcare group with £2m AIM

By MARTIN BARROW
SINCLAIR Montrose Healthcare, which provides support services to the healthcare sector, is seeking admission to the Alternative Investment Market, raising between £1.5 million and £2 million by way of a share placing.

At flotation the company is expected to be capitalised at between £10 million and £12 million. Funds from the flotation will be used to further develop existing activities and to expand into related healthcare areas.

SMH was formed in February when it acquired Match, which supplies nursing and related staff, and GPDS, which provides out-of-hours services to general practitioners in the West Midlands.

The chairman of SMH is Dr Michael Sinclair, formerly chairman of Lifetime Corporation, a listed company in America that was sold to Osten Corporation for \$600 million in 1993. The chief executive of SMH is Kate Bleasdale, a joint founder of Match with John Cariss, who is now chief operating officer of SMH.

The nominated adviser and broker to the company is Raphael Zorn Hemsley.

BBC agrees £29.8m sale of Delta

BBC GROUP has agreed to sell Delta Biotechnology for £29.8 million, payable over two years. The Nottingham biopharmaceutical company is being sold to Centeon, a joint venture of Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc Rorer.

Delta specialises in developing and purifying blood plasma. BBC, whose core business sectors are industrial gases, healthcare, vacuum technology and distribution services, said the sale proceeds would cover net assets plus goodwill on acquisition previously written off. There would be annual savings in costs, principally research and development expenses.

Tom Cobleigh to grow

TOM COBLEIGH, the pub retailer, yesterday announced plans to add 15 new managed houses this year to its fast-growing portfolio. The company, which floated in November last year, also revealed a 38 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits to £2.2 million. Overall turnover increased 30.5 per cent to £19.3 million. A maiden 1.6p final dividend is payable on August 19. Tom Cobleigh shares closed down 2p at 215p yesterday, compared with a flotation price of 150p.

SEC lifts dividend

SEC GROUP, the market-maker in traded endowment policies, lifted pre-tax profits to £1 million in the six months to March 31, from £463,000 in the first half of the previous year. The interim dividend rises to 2p a share, compared with 1.5p, payable on July 1 from earnings that improved to 4.44p from 1.78p. The company said it expects to declare a final dividend of 2.25p a share, making a total of at least 4.25p for the year to September 30. The shares rose 3p to 76p yesterday.

PPP Teletech venture

PPP, the private healthcare company, is linking up with the world's biggest customer-care call centre specialist. The £5 million joint venture with Teletech Holdings of America is designed to develop telephone information services for customers of large companies in the UK. Teletech is working on projects that would provide customers with face-to-face contact with a call centre via video conferencing using high street booths and ultimately via their TV or personal computer at home.

Medeva US deal

MEDEVA, the pharmaceutical company, has bought the US rights to Semprex-D, a hay fever medication, for £10.9 million from Glaxo Wellcome. The antihistamine was already marketed in America by Adams Laboratories. Medeva's subsidiary, Glaxo Wellcome will supply the product to Adams until regulatory approval has been received. Jerry Schulze, president and chief executive officer of Medeva America, said: "Semprex-D is one of our core new products and we are very pleased to be bringing it wholly in-house."

RM pushes ahead

RM, the supplier of information technology software, services and equipment to the education sector, lifted profits to £1.32 million before tax in the half-year to March 31, from £1.04 million in the first six months of the previous year. Earnings advanced to 5p a share from 4p. The interim dividend rises to 1.8p a share from 1.5p. The shares slipped 8p to 497p yesterday. The company had cash of £9.7 million at the end of the first half, compared with £10 million a year ago.

Countryside setback

COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES, one of the largest housebuilders in London and the South East, has cut the interim dividend to 0.75p (1.41p) after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.03 million (£2.3 million) in the half-year to March 31. Earnings fell to 1.1p a share (2p). The company incurred losses of £10.6 million before tax in the last full financial year and Alan Cherry, chairman, said that although the company had made good progress since the second half of last year, the results did not justify a maintained dividend.

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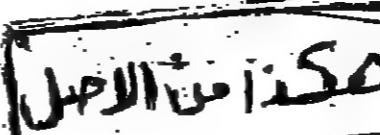
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



■ VISUAL ART 1
No limit to his observation: the glory of Degas is revealed at the National Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 2
Lashings of passion and paint: Gillian Ayres puts her colourful style on show in London



■ VISUAL ART 3
In his first solo show, Daniel Enkaoua reveals a simmering intensity beneath the deceptive calm



■ VISUAL ART 4
In Smith Square a mystic aura and fine technique combine in the paintings and prints of M.J. Mott

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Richard Cork on the National Gallery's major exhibition of Degas' brilliant variations on two themes

Obsession that made an old man happy

Pale, gaunt and dressed in a workaday coat smeared with pastel dust, the ageing Degas stares out from his self-portrait with an air of profound resignation. A deep crimson shadow is scored beneath the left eye, accentuating his weariness. "I look like a dog," he exclaimed when surveying this disconsolate likeness. But there is no mistaking the acuteness of its honest observation, and behind his grizzled head a buoyant image of a female nude hangs on the wall. Rubbing the nape of her neck with a towel, she shows just how spirited the old man's imagination could be.

Positioned at the beginning of the National Gallery's powerful new exhibition, this revealing image sums up the paradox of Degas' later years. To the outside world, he often seemed morose and reclusive. Within the fastness of his looming Montmartre house, though, the inveterate bachelor pursued his pictorial preoccupations with daring, drive and resourcefulness. This pioneering survey concentrates on the hitherto neglected period of his career between the late 1880s and 1912, when Degas' home in the Rue Victor Massé was demolished. The move to another apartment brought his art to an end, and he spent his last five years in ever-worsening health. Before then, however, he had led a disciplined and inventive life, continually revising, simplifying, refining and transforming a few obsessive themes.

Although some of the pictures and sculpture in Richard Kendall's well-chosen survey have been exhibited before, the full range of Degas' late work is here displayed for the first time. And it gives the lie to critics who claimed that he had deteriorated into a narrow, repetitive old age. Degas' decision to jettison most of the subjects explored in his earlier career did not limit him as an artist. By casting aside his racehorses, singers, laun-

dresses and whores, in order to focus on dancers and bathers alone, he affirmed that his overriding loyalty lay with the female figure in her private moments. The ballerinas who appear in Degas' late pictures are not, for the most part, performing on stage. Even when arrayed in sequined tutus, they are increasingly seen in rehearsal rooms, backstage or waiting in the wings. As for the women who disrobe, wash and rub them-

■ He wanted his art to be as purged and renewed as the bathers

selves dry, they are wholly caught up in their own cleansing activities.

Even though he concentrates so tightly on these figures, Degas makes us realise that the subject is potentially limitless. The show's principal revelation lies in its serial images, clusters of pictures based on the same motif but capable of infinite transformation. The sequences often commence with a stark charcoal study, based on nude models posed in the studio. Degas was a consummate draughtsman, and even the roughest of these late, loosely handled sketches are miracles of supple, economical observation. *Group of Dancers* is among the most masterly of these studies. Broken and smudged, the charcoal nevertheless captures the nervous, fluttering motion of the women as they brace themselves for the performance ahead.

Degas habitually drew on tracing paper, so that he could replicate an existing design and then change it at will. Hanging next to the *Group of*

Dancers. Pink and Green (c. 1896), from the National Gallery's show devoted to the later, less lauded, Degas

and drying themselves? Degas, however, scrutinised these mundane activities again and again. More than 200 pastels, together with a quantity of oil paintings and sculptures as well as countless drawings, testify to the strength of his obsession. But there is no suggestion that the nudes are being observed by salivating male elders. The women are attractive enough, and Degas relished the liveness of their bodies. His primary aim, however, was not erotic. Rather does he define the strength, agility and sheer animal independence of naked bodies purging themselves of urban grime.

In one particularly luminous painting, a maid pours water from a jug on to a

woman's shoulders. The gesture could well possess a baptismal significance. The richness of the colours embalming the wall behind suggests that Degas wanted to invest this moment with an almost ceremonial splendour. And the idea of cleansing surely implies the promise of renewal. Are these women being reborn in a world of sensation heightened by Degas' perpetual willingness to take fresh risks with resources at his disposal?

The question is worth asking when we examine an outstanding series called *After the Bath*. Seen from behind, like so many of these bathing figures, a woman rubs her neck with a white towel. Since no face is visible, she could

hardly be more anonymous. But her back is charged with energy, and the changes it undergoes in picture after picture are audacious enough to command attention at every stage.

In the National Gallery's large pastel, she dominates the composition with statuesque grandeur. But, in a closely related version, from the Norton Simon Foundation in California, she seems plumper and more sensual. It is an exquisitely refined image, yet Degas was capable of startling roughness as well. The version from Stuttgart has no time for a display of virtuoso technique. The hatched shading on her back is scratched on to the paper, and the rest of her body

appears to be breaking up into disjointed fragments.

Degas was far too fascinated by the human body ever to become an abstract artist. In the most experimental of these late works, though, he does seem to be pushing himself into a world where line, form and colour have a more autonomous existence than before. Despite growing infirmity and worsening eyesight, this restless old man wanted his art to be as purged and renewed as the bathers emerging from the water. If his subjects remained constant, his images were forever on the move.

■ Degas: Beyond Impressionism opens at the National Gallery tomorrow and continues until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)

AROUND THE GALLERIES

DANIEL ENKAOUA is only 33, and this is his first one-man show. He is a very quiet painter indeed. Born in France of a long-established Sephardic family, he settled in Israel when he was 19. He paints mainly townscapes, of a modern city which could be anywhere round the Mediterranean. The style is a soft-edged, non-photographic realism, the colouring subdued, as though everything is seen through a veil of dust. But Enkaoua's paintings have a simmering intensity, as of the calm before a desert storm.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albermarle Street, WI (0171-629 5161), until June 14

□ It is sad to see the Ben Uri Gallery about to be evicted from its old home above the Dean Street synagogue (the site is to be redeveloped). One can hope that plans for a much larger building will be rapidly realised. Meanwhile, the penultimate exhibition is devoted to yet another neglected 20th-century Jewish artist, Michael Salaman (1911-1957). Salaman was a brilliant colourist, his pictures radiating bonhomie. Even the darkest — like *Casualty*, based on his wartime experience — hint at a happy ending. The art is so skilled that one cannot but wonder why it is not better known.

Ben Uri Art Gallery, 21 Dean Street, WI (0171-437 2852), until May 26

□ British artists, especially of a symbolic disposition, often find that the technical disciplines of print-making focus their talents. M.J. Mott seems to be of this persuasion. Some of her paintings are beautiful: dreamlike landscapes, fantastic cities, elemental Adam-and-Eve figures apparently rooted in the ground itself. But there is also a tendency for the human figures, dwelling in fantasy, to lack a necessary infrastructure of bones and muscles. As soon as we turn to the prints, though, the work toughens up. Mott is clearly mistress of many techniques: here we find etchings plain and coloured, mezzotints, linocuts, wood-engravings and relief prints, as well as mixtures. The effect is stunning: crisp, elegant, precise, brilliantly coloured where applicable, yet retaining the mystic aura in which the paintings are bathed.

Footstool Gallery, St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 2168) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, and 6-10pm on concert evenings, until June 1

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



The bright spark in a brown world

Sacha Craddock celebrates the long career of one of Britain's best abstract painters; plus other new shows

To anyone standing in front of a work by Gillian Ayres, it soon becomes clear that this artist's chosen subject is painting itself. Unlike a lot of lyrical abstraction, Ayres' work is almost belligerent in its direct, "hands-on", expressionistic approach. There is no sense of doubt or indecision, only of an attempt to create a reality through massive volumes of paint. The struggle seems more physical than mental.

"Why should painting be bloody misery?" Ayres asks. Her current exhibition at Gimpel Fils is a vivid illustration of this attitude. It includes a generous selection of works: many large paintings, among them a diptych which is very large indeed, and a group of smaller works downstairs. The colour in the recent works

is forceful, the drawing blunt. Throughout her career, which spans almost half a century, Ayres has been concerned with paint's potential for transformation. Perhaps no other British painter, except Frank Auerbach, has explored this potential with such passion. The other enduring quality in Ayres' work is the expressive use of colour. From the thinner, more fluid abstract pictures of the 1950s to the later "arranged" works of the 1980s, all are uniformly bright and hedonistic and determinedly not rooted in the English tradition of muted tonal variations.

Her affiliations lie in a straight line from Impressionism, through Matisse to American Abstract Expressionism. She first came into contact with what she still



Gillian Ayres's *Hanging Gardens of Babylon*, 1994-95

paintings. In this country they also talk of pure decoration as if it were something like an embroidered cushion. It is a form of Puritanism."

Although Ayres has been making paintings for nearly five decades, it was at the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s that her large, encrusted, spectacular works achieved acclaim, and came to be essential viewing for a great number of art students. Up to that point she had been teaching in art schools herself, but after an illness moved to Matt's Gallery, 42-44 Copperfield Rd, London E3 (0181-983 1771), until June 9

□ The usually expansive space at Matt's Gallery seems much smaller. Running right across it from side to side is a fake wall. Only slowly does it become clear that, despite the heavily opaque mix of red and purple paint which covers it and the elaborate black detailing at the bottom of the wall, all is not solid as it seems: a taut, fragile membrane covers the structure, and daylight filters thinly through from behind. Called *What are you Looking At?*, this simple piece by John Frankland is strangely atmospheric: a potentially bland piece has been turned into something more elusive.

Matt's Gallery, 42-44 Copperfield Rd, London E3 (0181-983 1771), until June 9

□ With a little help and a makeshift kitchen, Giorgio Sordi managed to produce an excellent meal in the cold basement of the Cubitt Gallery. *Dinner* may sound like another cynical, cliquey exercise whereby a list of names becomes a substitute for art. At the same time, however, it was nice to be asked. But that is beside the point. The result

ing exhibition shows the dinner table exactly as it was left by the guests, with cigarette stubs, empty glasses, doodled table cloths and crumpled napkins "signed" by Gavin Turk. A frequently altered seating plan, a menu, snapshots of the cooking and a refusal by fax are tacked on the wall. At each end of the table a large television monitor shows various things, including two short films by Gillian Wearing, while a soundtrack specially arranged by Angela Bulloch plays on. Although nothing awful or embarrassing happened during dinner, the show creates a strong sense that it was all a long time ago, and that the traces should now be cleared up.

Cubitt Gallery 2/4 Caledonia Street, London N1 (0171-278 8226) until June 2

□ Two obsessively worked paintings by Tim Renshaw turn intensive labour to real advantage. The tracery of a map or street plan is repeated in a creeping web across each canvas: yellow detail painstakingly spreads across a black ground in one; blue spreads across grey in the other. Two delicate pieces by Bernice Donzelman are traced straight onto the wall to make small finely woven patterns like drawn-out lace or two-dimensional basketwork. Andrew Chester's work hovers between utility and flatness: a detailed but worn Formica table top sits directly on legs, while a sanded piece of blockboard sits mounted on the floor, leaning against the wall. Renshaw has selected an unusually discreet show which suggests some intriguing cross-references.

□ With a little help and a

make-shift kitchen, Giorgio Sordi managed to produce an excellent meal in the cold basement of the Cubitt Gallery. *Dinner* may sound like another cynical, cliquey exercise whereby a list of names becomes a substitute for art. At the same time, however, it was nice to be asked. But that is beside the point. The result

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Royal Opera House

**CHOICE 2**

Neil Bartlett's
musical version of
Lady Into Fox
comes to Brighton

VENUE: This week at
the Royal Pavilion

**CHOICE 3**

The French music
festival continues
under Yan Pascal
Tortelier's baton

VENUE: Tonight at
the Festival Hall

**DANCE**

Intelligence and
wit mark a
programme of
old favourites
and new work
from Trisha Brown

LONDON

PAS DE DÉBUIS: Frederick Ashton's timeless *Birthday Offering*, with music by Glazunov and designs by Peter Pears, is danced by the Birmingham Royal Ballet. It is given with David Aldrey's *Camelot* business, a modern interpretation of a 13th-century bawdy poem and songs, set to Carl Orff's powerful score, and sung by the Birmingham Ex Cathedra Choir. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. WC2E 7DR (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then May 30 and 31. £30.

APRES L'APRES-MIDI: The Philharmonia Orchestra under Yan Pascal Tortelier offer an exciting programme of French music at the Festival. The evening begins with the world premiere of the Suite *Symphonie Symphonique* (Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* Ballade) from the film *Le Lac des Cygnes*. Directed by David Wilson-Johnson. At 8pm Delibes' *La Mermaid et le Dauphin* and Franck's *Concerts for the Left Hand and the Second Sister* from *Daphnis et Chloé*. With Jean-Philippe Collard and the Philharmonia Chorus. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

FREWD: Moving Theatre opens a season of Schubert's operas with *Die Zwillingsbrüder* (1818) as an army officer, deep in debt, banishes an actress he considers her game (he

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Gillian Moxey

"*Swan Lake*". Rehearsed playreadings of other Schubert's operas will be held on Saturday at the Music Room, Royal Pavilion (8pm); performed by Louise and Sophie, and Hayley, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Over at the Theatre Royal, Travelling Opera gives Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (7pm), set in the gardens of an Oxford college in the 18th century. Stalls open 7pm. Box office (0171-739 0000).

MOLD: Stage adaptation of the Fred MacMurray-Barbara Stanwyck film noir *Double Indemnity*. Edward Thomas directs a cast led by Barry Foster.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kington's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only
■ Seats until all prices

PIR: *Barbican, Silk Street EC1* (0171-889 8891). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then 8pm, Sat 24, 25, Sun 25, Mon 26, Tues 27, 28pm. In rep with *The Repères*.

■ THE PRINCESS PLAY: Interesting reworking of Victor Hugo's *Romeo and Juliet* to Victorian London. National (Olivier, Saatchi St, EC1) (0171-928 2222). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm. Mat 1.30pm, Fri 2pm. In rep.

■ ROAD MOVIE: Godfrey Hamilton's latest one-man play, performed by Mark Penketh and a sell-out of last year's Edinburgh Fringe. A man heads West across

England finding love and grief. Lyric Studio, King St, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Preview begins tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow.

■ TARTUFFE: Ian McDonald and Tom Hollander make a rare return to Kent's top-notch production of Molière's sat comedy *Almèdes*. Almeida St, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat 8pm; mat 8pm.

■ LONG RUNNERS: ■ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-388 0000). ■ Bloody, Bloody, Bloody (0171-889 0000). ■ Don't Dress for Dinner: Duchess of Malfi (0171-5070). ■ Faerie: The Royal, Newmarket, Cambridge (0171-355 2000). ■ Gormenghast: Donmar (0171-416 6000). ■ The Merchant: St Martin's (0171-386 1400). ■ Oliver! (0171-416 6020). ■ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (0171-929 6000). Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

■ Trisha Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (●) on releases across the country

■ AGENT TRACER: (●) (0171-434 0201) Cohen/Marshall Arch (01858 614951). Wednesday Even (0171-437 4343)

■ ROUGH MAGIC: (●) Malaysian's adventure Bridge of San Trofa finds his magic in Mexico. Enjoying oddity from director Cliff Pugh. Odeon, Heygate St (0123 519 353). Kensington (0123 514 0656). Screen College (0123 514 0985)

■ CURRENT: ■ COPYCAT: (●) Agnieszka Szlagor, Weaver and Holly Hunter's

police detective battle with a serial killer. Director: Jon Avner. MCA/Universal (0171-382 0000). *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031) *Odeon*, Kensington (0123 514 0656). *Whale Cottage* (0123 519 2322). *White City* (0171-739 3322) *West End* (0171-437 4336)

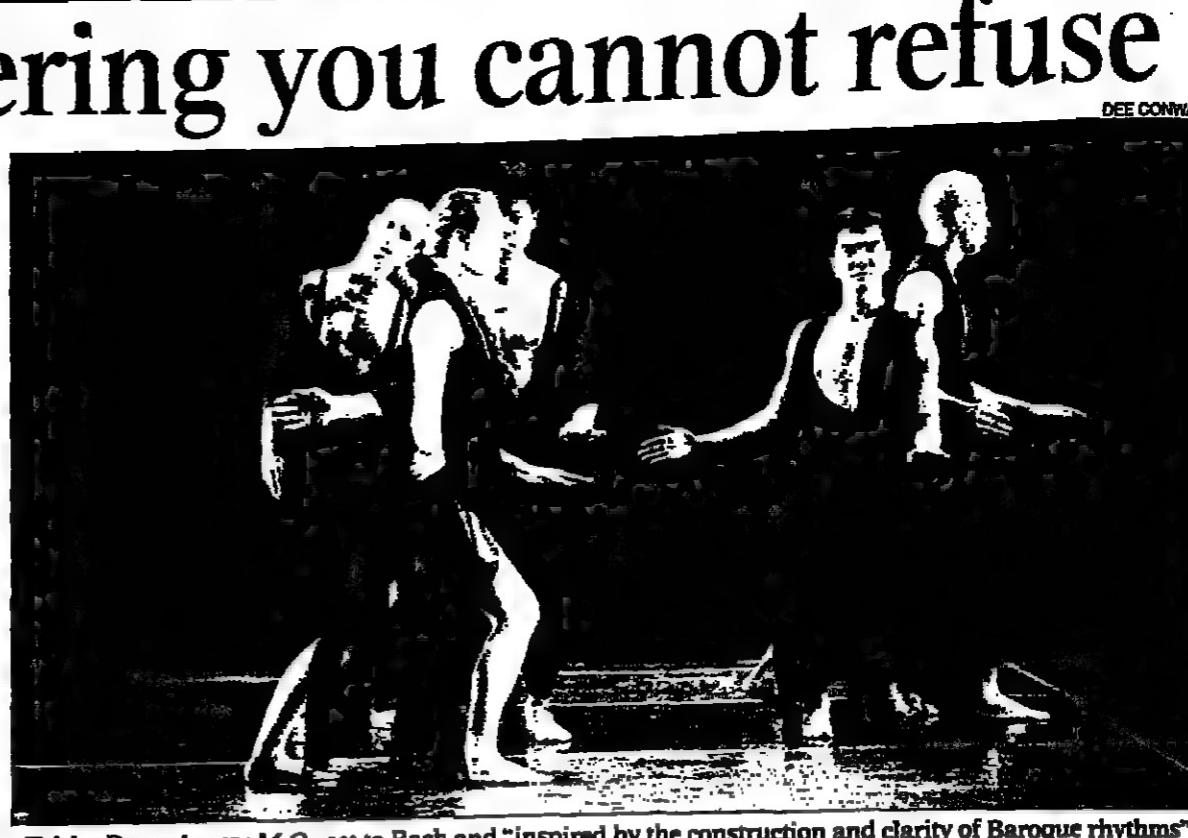
■ SILENT: (●) Graceful beauty in British Cinema. Italy's remake of *Death of a Salesman* with Paul Auster, with Henry Keeler and William Hurt. Director: Wayne Wang. Lumière (0171-638 0091). *MGMC* (0171-254 6677). *Screen* (0171-437 2500). *Paradise* (0171-537 5402). *Watermans* (0181-588 1176)

DANCE**Trisha Brown Company
Theatre Royal, Brighton**

There is nothing very loud about Trisha Brown's choreography. It materialises on stage unobtrusively, unravels its complexities modestly, and then disappears quietly, as if anxious to escape the overt congratulation of applause. Born of intelligence and sparked by wit, it never needs to raise its voice.

Her greatest hit, *Set and Reset*, part of her current British tour (presented by Dance Umbrella), is vintage Trisha Brown. Created by the American choreographer in 1963, in collaboration with the composer Laurie Anderson and the painter Robert Rauschenberg, it is a classic of Post-Modern dance. Lucky is the punter who has a ticket to see it at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre tonight, or the Queen Elizabeth Hall this weekend.

Inhabiting Rauschenberg's shades-of-grey world, and propelled by Anderson's punchy art-rock score, the three men and four women of *Set and Reset* slither through Brown's deceptively simple constructions, their knees, elbows and shoulders moving like greased ball-bearings. Brown's use of spontaneous, everyday movements is grafted on to a rigorous structure. The combination is beautiful and wonderfully relaxing to watch: soft phrases that resonate with the sylvatic pleasure of plunging into a warm bath. And the dancers are so good they seem to be intuiting rather than interpreting Brown's creative impulses.



Trisha Brown's new *M.O.*, set to Bach and "inspired by the construction and clarity of Baroque rhythms"

While instinct informs *Set and Reset*, it is the intellect that informs her 1995 work *M.O.* Here Brown has — in a new departure — turned to classical music: Bach's *Musical Offering*. Her relationship with Bach is less straightforward than with Taylor's, say, or Stark Morris's: at times the music is left to speak to an empty stage; at others the dance is left to complete its statement in silence. But, like her compatriots, Brown is inspired by the construction and clarity of Baroque rhythms.

Nine dancers, dressed by Irie in wisps of black, grey and white, tease each other with the barest of touches. At the Brighton Festival on Friday night we were also treated to a solo by

the choreographer herself: *If you couldn't see me*, devised by Brown and Rauschenberg. Indeed, no one could see her, since she danced the entire piece with her back to the audience and her face obscured by a fantastic head of hair. Yet even without the benefit of eye contact we could respond to her extraordinary charisma, her elegantly proportioned physique stabbing the luminescent space created by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. Brown may be heading for 60 this year, but she remains a goddess of the dance.

DEBRA CRAIN

Master of the late show**RECITAL****Krystian Zimerman
Festival Hall**

Even in the cavernous Festival Hall, the music came across with an intimacy that reflected Zimerman's easy dexterity and his way of investing all dynamics with colours of extraordinary subtlety.

From the firm opening of Haydn's Sonata in E flat, Hob XVI:49, Zimerman took delight in the surprises the composer throws in. Whether in the almost Romantic expression of the Adagio or the

minor-key twist of the Finale, there is a sense of adventure in this piece that the pianist caught. But nothing was at the expense of his aristocratic forward. Each was played forward with a sense of discovery.

playing sounded spontaneous. Best of all was Schubert's Sonata No 20 in A, D859. Written just months before his early death, it is still a "late" work in which the composer — in contrast to Beethoven — was reaching out towards lyrical expressiveness. Zimerman paced it perfectly. The Lied-like *Andantino* was heart-achingly beautiful, the later movements full of virtosity in a performance of rare intellectual and emotional consistency.

JOHN ALLISON

NEW RELEASES

BLUE IN THE FACE: (15) Stones and jocks at Brooklyn High. Indulgent companion piece to *Smash*, with Hanif Kureishi and Stephen Rea. Many others. Director: Wayne Wang. Piccadilly (0171-437 1234). Review (0171-437 1234) *Reindeer* (0171-437 1234)

■ IDIOTS: (18) Unlikely partners of kids running wild in Manhattan. A first feature by still-photographer Larry Clark, the son of a film professional.

■ FIGHTING: (15) Michael Palin's *Death of a Salesman* (0171-437 1234)

■ ROUGH MAGIC: (12) Malaysian's adventure Bridge of San Trofa finds his magic in Mexico. Enjoying oddity from director Cliff Pugh.

■ ODEON: Heygate St (0123 519 353). Kensington (0123 514 0656). Screen College (0123 514 0985)

■ CURRENT: ■ COPYCAT: (18) Agnieszka Szlagor, Weaver and Holly Hunter's

police detective battle with a serial killer. Director: Jon Avner. MCA/Universal (0171-382 0000). *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031)

■ AGENT TRACER: (●) (0171-434 0201) Cohen/Marshall Arch (01858 614951)

Wednesday Even (0171-437 4343)

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■ CANNES

The old master Bertolucci turns his lens on the British in Tuscany in his new film, *Stealing Beauty*



■ THEATRE

A new Archie Rice: Michael Pennington steps into Olivier's shoes in *The Entertainer*



■ POP

Extinguish all cigarettes: the sensitive Tracy Chapman has embarked on a British tour



■ TOMORROW

Maestro of New York: Kurt Masur reveals how he revitalised America's oldest orchestra

Some say that the standard of entries in this year's Cannes competition is too high. Geoff Brown is not among them

New whine in a vintage year

Film critics are a hard lot to please. After moaning during the past few years about the poor quality of Cannes' competition films, some have voiced the view that this time the films were almost too good. There weren't enough that you wanted to walk out of.

Now, walking out of a Cannes press screening takes a special skill. You choose the film's quietest moment; you stand, let the seat tip back with a thud and stumble out, contriving to jolt the row in front and perhaps tread on a few toes. It's a little art form in itself. But how could anyone practise this during Mike Leigh's *Secrets & Lies*, or Lars von Trier's *Breaking the Waves*, the films firmly established by the middle of last week as the critics' favourites?

We even sat relatively still during a major disappointment such as the mawkish *The Eighth Day*. Jaco Van Dormael's long-awaited successor to *To the Hero*, hoping, perhaps, that the opening shafts of brilliance would return to save this banal tale of a harassed businessman (Daniel Auteuil) humanised by an adult with Down's syndrome. Alas, they seldom did.

The line-up for this 49th festival may have been weak on new talent, but there were very few competition films that could be tossed aside lightly, least of all by the jury, chaired by Francis Coppola.

Even those who scoffed at Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty* had to admit that it gilded smoothly past the eyes. The film marks the director's tentative return to contemporary Italy after 16 years of movie wandering in China, India and the Sahara. He is still an outsider; not for nothing are the chief characters British expatriates, bohemians in Tuscany, topped off with an American teenager ripe for a rite of passage. Liv

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Tyler, the luminous actress Bertolucci picked for this role, had her face plastered all over the Croisette; you would swear she was advertising perfume, not a movie. *Italiens* at least love the film's scent — it has been a big hit there — and, while the film is small, there is a freshness to its musings on love, death and beauty that renews hope for a director whose most recent film was *Little Buddha*.

Bertolucci is not the only film director who has been revamping his portfolio. Steven Soderbergh, who shot to stardom when he won the Palme d'Or aged 26 with sex, lies & videotape, sent a print of

Schizopolis, made with his own money and with himself as lead actor. This was presented on Saturday as the festival's traditional surprise film. Unfortunately the surprise was unpleasant: Soderbergh has used his freedom to create an incredibly dishevelled comedy about psychobabble and communication, made up of 2 per cent funny business and 98 per cent drivel.

On the same day, Michael Cimino, still carrying the scars of Heaven's Gate, came to relaunch his career yet again with his competition entry *The Sunchaser*, an odd-couple-on-the-road movie about a smooth LA doctor (Woody Harrelson) taken hostage by an escaped prisoner dying of cancer. Clichés overtook the characters, but the film was always watchable.

The dominant colours of David Cronenberg's Crash

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The dominant colours of David Cronenberg's Crash

"Gliding smoothly past the eyes": Donal McCann and Liv Tyler in *Stealing Beauty*. Bernardo Bertolucci's return to something like his best form

are black and grey, the colours of cars, tarmac, and the Toronto night. Long before this adaptation of J.G. Ballard's notorious novel unspooled in competition last Friday, we were being primed for something scandalously offensive. True, those with axes to grind will grind away as James Spader, Holly Hunter and Elias Koteas experience the ultimate sexual thrill from crashing cars, licking their wounds, and doing things I cannot possibly describe in a respectable newspaper.

But Cronenberg's touch is so cold and so clinical that the images themselves are in no way inflammatory. The sombre palette, tightly controlled camera movements and hushed words create an extreme, bleak atmosphere of sexual tension and perversity. But as Crash proceeds, you soon realise this is a mood piece without drama; and what astonishes after ten minutes loses its potency after a hundred.

Fortunately other directors

at Cannes never forgot about the pleasures of diversity and a mobile narrative. The playful intellectual Raul Ruiz defied the sceptics with his warm and whimsical *Three Lives and Only One Death*, a compendium of tales featuring Marcello Mastroianni, a man with multiple personalities. Jacques Audiard, a scriptwriter turned director, supplied a superb entertainment with *Una Heros* discret, the ironic tale of a young man who invents his own past as a Resistance hero in the months

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Thoughtful, witty and tender by turns, the film darts nimbly between its moods, helped by a subtly inflected performance from Matthieu Kassovitz as the nobody from the provinces who learns how to be somebody.

There were many other notable films on view, from Rolf de Heer's *The Quiet Room*, a powerful journey into a child's mind, to Hou Hsiao-Hsien's *Goodbye South, Goodbye* (ravishing to watch, if difficult to penetrate).

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Channel 5 Broadcasting

LAW

- NEW BAR PLAN 39
- LAW REPORT 21

Frances Gibb on the difficulties ahead for the solicitors' new advertising agency

Sue, Grabbit & Runne orders a new image

J Walter Thompson says it is the "dream brief" — how to restore the reputation of solicitors, possibly the group held in lowest public esteem, baring politicians and journalists. Last week JWT was the advertising agency picked to devise a plan to lift lawyers out of the mire: the first such campaign to promote the whole profession since the ill-fated "Mr What'sname" advertisements in the 1970s.

The campaign is the baby of Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, who feels the society has done little in recent years to promote solicitors or combat a bad press riddled with stories of lawyers running off with clients' money or legal aid abuse.

"It is very dispiriting for solicitors to read this kind of story all the time," he says. "The public blame the majority for the activities of a tiny minority. It's as if doctors were reading all the time about their colleagues molesting their patients. Solicitors need to see their activities promoted more positively."

Three top agencies were therefore asked to put up their ideas for a promotional campaign for solicitors. JWT will now work up detailed proposals, which may lead to a full-scale advertising campaign this autumn. Stephen Carter, JWT's managing director, says: "We were given a very clear brief — identifying the reputational and commercial issues facing the solicitors' branch of the profession." The agency's research, he adds, has thrown up two problems: a decline in solicitors' reputation and a lack of recognition of their commercial contribution to society.

So, many say, what's new? Shakespeare was not the first to capture public feeling about the profession: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." Walter Merricks, head of communications at the Law Society, says: "The image of solicitors has declined over the years, along with everyone in authority. Take bank managers — they used to be held in high esteem, but their reputation has not been enhanced by the way banks are now organised, and managers are not thought to wield much power."

Solicitors, however, faced another problem which does not apply to most of the medical profession: "Doctors and nurses are still seen as angels of mercy. One reason is that for the most part, they are



Daniel Benzali of TV's *Murder One* has the image Martin Mears, top, and Sir Tim Bell seek for British lawyers

not sullied by having to ask for fees."

But any advertising campaign must grapple with a paradox. While people have a poor view of the profession as a whole, they have high regard, generally, for their own solicitor. This individual respect is not translated to solicitors en masse. John Jenkins, head of the Law Society's research and policy planning, cites a 1994 Law Society survey in which more than two thirds of clients said their own solicitor was approachable, efficient and competent — the opposite of American research, which showed that those who recently used a lawyer thought worse of them. But the problem, he says, is that solicitors tend to be a "distress purchase": people often go to a solicitor at a time of a traumatic life event such as moving home, divorce, a criminal trial or compensation for injury. They do not see them as general advisers. People also choose a solicitor chiefly by personal recommendation.

People respect their own solicitor, but not others

changed his name to Mr What'sname by deed poll.

Sue Stapeley, chief Law Society press officer, says: "The problem is that advertising campaigns, naturally, are aimed at the public — but solicitors see them as demeaning. They view them as if they were the target audience. So it ends in tears." Instead, the society has sought to promote specific services, such as its accident line for personal injury claims, and its "TransAction" campaign for conveyancing standards.

What, then, can a £3 million generic campaign for the profession achieve? The history of promoting solicitors is mixed. A series of TV commercials run by Riley Advertising in Glasgow for the Law Society of Scotland from 1991 for three years was a hit with the public. The joke ads bore the slogan: "It's never too soon to call a solicitor." But many in the profession thought it demeaning and the campaign was called off. Similarly, the Mr What'sname campaign in England, featuring a barrack-room lawyer offering bad advice to his mates, was criticised by many and then collapsed in face when a solicitor

is no quick fix. Any campaign



Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, and Sir Tim Bell, chairman of the Bar Council.

must, he believes, run for two or three years to have results. "It's the drip-drip effect." This is just as well. Last week Sir Tim Bell, the leading PR guru, was called in by the society to advise on another potential campaign over legal aid reforms. He told the society that its standing was poor among opinion-formers — and that until that was rectified, a legal aid campaign would be ineffective. So, with JWT, Sir Tim and Lowe Bell will advise on an overall communications strategy for the society itself.

Like any of their own exacting clients, the country's 65,000 solicitors will be judging the ad men by results.

Suffering in the cause of justice

Earlier this month, the Croydon magistrates convicted Matthew Simmons of using threatening words and behaviour at a football match at Selhurst Park in January 1995. The magistrates accepted the evidence of witnesses who had heard Simmons, a Crystal Palace supporter, shout crude abuse at, and make offensive gestures towards, the Manchester United player, Eric Cantona. This had provoked an attack by Cantona on Simmons which led to the footballer being convicted of assault, ordered to perform community service and suspended from the sport for eight months.

The magistrates rejected Simmons's evidence that he had not sworn at Cantona, but had engaged in "banter" like "any normal fan". Unlike any normal defendant, Simmons reacted to his conviction by attacking the prosecutor, Jeffrey McCann, as the lawyer was asking the court to ban Simmons from attending football grounds for a year.

Simmons grabbed Mr McCann round the neck, attempted to haul him over a table, and tried to kick him. As police overpowered the defendant, he shouted out: "I am innocent, I promise, I swear on the Bible," and informed the occupants of the press bench that they were "scum".

Fortunately, Mr McCann was not seriously injured. With a degree of fairness that characterises a good prosecutor, Mr McCann told the court that he had no intention of pressing charges against Simmons. For the Selhurst Park offence, Simmons was fined £500, ordered to pay £200 costs and banned from football grounds for 12 months. For his attack on Mr McCann, Simmons was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for contempt of court. Because an offender only has to serve half of a short sentence, and because prisoners cannot be released from custody at weekends, Simmons in fact served less than 24 hours of his sentence.

Advocacy can be a dangerous profession for reasons additional to the stress of responding to the conflicting demands of clients, opponents and judges. One of the functions of the law of contempt is to protect advocates from the aggression of opposing parties and witnesses whom they have cross-examined. (Lawyers are normally left to deal as best they are able with the anger or disappointment of their own clients.)

On occasion, advocates have been seriously injured for performing their professional duties. In 1899, Fernand Labori, the lawyer acting for Alfred Dreyfus at his second court martial, was shot and badly wounded on his way to the courtroom. In 1988, a man whose

family had been murdered by the Nazis threw acid in the face of an Israeli defence lawyer who was representing John Demjanjuk, accused, and eventually acquitted, of mass murder as "Ivan the Terrible" at Treblinka concentration camp. In such circumstances, the criminal law provides adequate general sanctions.

Where aggression in court disrupts proceedings, but causes no serious injury, then the matter is usually dealt with by punishment for contempt of court. In 1971, the Appellate Court of Illinois dismissed an appeal by a defendant who punched the Assistant State Attorney on the nose when he was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He received a further six months' imprisonment for contempt of court. Borrie and Lowe's *The Law of Contempt* reports that in 1979, in the Court of Appeal, a litigant in person who had lost his case "hit opposing counsel on the head with a carafe of water and for this serious contempt he was imprisoned for three months".

The problem faced by the magistrates at Croydon was that under Section 12 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the maximum period for which they may send a person to prison for contempt by interrupting the proceedings or otherwise misbehaving in court is one month. (The 1974 Phillimore Report, which recommended that this power be conferred on magistrates, suggested that the maximum sentence should be seven days.) In this context, magistrates do not have their general power to imprison offenders for up to six months. So even if Simmons had received the maximum sentence, he would have been released from prison after two weeks.

Simmons's case demonstrates that the limited powers of magistrates are inadequate. Parliament should confer power on the magistrates' court to imprison for contempt for up to six months. A physical attack by a defendant in a criminal trial on a prosecutor performing his or her duties is a serious contempt even if no injuries are caused. The proper administration of justice demands that people like Simmons are made to understand that if they cannot control their aggression in court, and if they endanger the welfare of those who are enforcing the law of the land, they will lose their liberty for longer than a few days. Simmons is very fortunate to have escaped a substantial penalty for a professional foul.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

COUNSEL
DAVID
PANNICK QC

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Bang to rights

LORD Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, last week restated his support for incorporating a Bill of Rights into UK law. The only alternative, he said, was to make judges arbiters of our rights. But the "central difficulty is that, while the fundamental importance of human rights is almost always universally recognised, the nature and content of the rights is not". In his view, the protection of rights could best be secured if they were "crystallised in a democratic Bill of Rights".

Lord Irvine was speaking after Sir John Laws, the High Court judge, delivered an erudite address on the Constitution: Power and Principle on the occasion of the annual Mishcon lecture sponsored by Mishcon de Reya, solicitors to the Princess of Wales.

Board games

RECORD numbers of trainee solicitors were entered by law firms this year for the Prospects Cup Competition — a business game for trainees in



Cherie Booth, QC, new post

which young lawyers pit their skills against counterparts in industry, commerce, finance and government. They meet as a board to decide the best strategy for managing their business in competition with four rival companies.

The cup is run in association with the University of East Anglia and — among others — the Higher Education Careers Services (CSU), publishers of the Prospects graduate recruitment directory.

● Lawyers are expected to be out in force on Thursday for the Wilde Suptie City of

London road race. About 2,000 runners from firms and businesses throughout the City have entered the 3.5-mile race to raise money for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Among the high-profile lawyers expected to turn out are the Bar Council chairman David Penny-Davey, QC, and Anne Rafferty, QC, Criminal Bar Association chairwoman.

Tight briefs
WOMEN solicitors are learning what men have known for years. If you want to dress properly for the City, only a handmade suit will do. Imatz Khalif, of Yours Suitably, for example, has more than 20 City women solicitors on her books. She is used to working within the strict dress code. She says: "A tight brief often means you can be more creative."

Take one client, Sheila Simison of Clyde & Co, who credits Ms Khalif with transforming her image. Ms Khalif says: "Every time she comes in wanting a sober black suit, I try to ensure she leaves with something more adventurous. She even has two green suits in her wardrobe."

SCRIVENOR



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2-5 Years' PQE

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Our culture is open, informal and forward-thinking; our commitment to developing the potential of this and other key sectors offers high-calibre specialists the opportunity to broaden their experience at speed.

With between 2-5 years' pqe in a leading commercial firm (with or without project finance experience), you will now have a close understanding of the workings of the railway industry. As a member of our Energy and Projects Team you will benefit from the quality and diversity of our work and our

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of Circuit Judge. Successful applicants will be recommended to The Queen for appointment to the Circuit Bench to fill vacancies arising on all circuits between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 1998.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in the Crown Court or county courts for a period of ten years. They should normally be aged between 45 and 60 on 1 April 1997 and have served in the office of Recorder (not necessarily on the circuit to which they seek assignment or a Circuit Judge) for a period of 2 years prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will recommend for appointment the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number and location of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171-210 8983 (as answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

Circuit Bench Appointments (JAD1)
Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Thursday 20 June 1996

Your Career, Our Priority!

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Employment - £140,000
Senior Lawyer with 3-5PQE and good managerial skills sought to head up team. Contentious/non-contentious work which is likely to benefit the 'ground-breaking' variety.

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Mid-size law firm has requirement for 'flexible' candidate 1-2PQE to join the Eastern European group. Languages will be of special interest and non-UK qualified are invited to apply.

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Nick firm seeks RLEX with at least 5 years' civil litigation experience gained in a City firm to handle defence claims and recovery work for major insurance companies and Lloyds.

Information Technology - Partner level City
Senior Lawyer with top City background is sought by medium sized firm with superb reputation. No following will be required.

Employment - c£35,000 City
Leading specialist firm has new position for Lawyer with 3-5PQE to handle non-contentious caseload emanating from the music industry.

Newly Qualified - c£28,000 City/Midlands
Many firms seek newly qualified with experience in banking, corporate tax, corporate commercial, construction, employment, property, asset finance.

Commercial Property - c£30,000
Major firm requires Lawyer, 4-6PQE, City trained, to handle quality caseload including corporate support.

Corporate/Commercial - c£37,000 West End
Dynamic practice seeks strong City or equivalent trained Lawyer to join top team handling Yellow/Blue Book and M&As. Must be proactive, confident.

Contact: Lynne McCarron, Lucy Boyd or Marian Lloyd-Jones
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Tel: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

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Company/Commercial - c£35,000
Lawyer 2-4PQE with top academic required by blue chip company as Legal Advisor. Banking/capital markets experience preferred.

Commercial - c£40,000 London
Opportunity for versatile Lawyer to join international company to deal with commercial, employment and IP work. In-house experience desirable.

Shipping - c£30,000 City
Solicitors/Barristers 1-2PQE with experience gained in either a P&I Club or private practice sought to join high profile team.

Corporate/Commercial - c£40,000 City
Blue chip concern seeks 3 junior City trained Lawyers to handle corporate work as well as some banking and insurance work.

Contracts - c£30,000 Home Counties
Assistant Lawyer 1-2PQE sought to join Head of Legal. Work will include commodity & trade contracts as well as bank guarantees. Must be able to hit the ground running.

Commercia - c£30,000 Midlands
International concern seeks Lawyer 1-2PQE to join legal team. Will suit candidates seeking first in-house move as training will be given. Languages desirable.

EC Competition - c£37,000 London
Blue chip company seeks City trained senior Lawyer with experience in UK/EC competition work, as well as some Treasury work. Languages desirable.

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Ref: 1042NT

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Ref: 1072NT

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The small, prestigious London office of this large firm now has an opportunity for a City trained lawyer with good qualifications and broadly based experience. There is good quality work, the office is expanding and the prospects are attractive.

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► Corporate

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This leading national practice is seeking a talented corporate lawyer, 2 to 6 years qualified, to join the high profile Birmingham office. They are interested in several areas of expertise including general company/commercial, venture capital and corporate finance.

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► Company Commercial City - 1-3 years PQE

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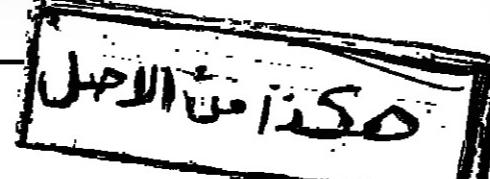
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Southwark Legal Services

2 Legal Officers-Social Services

PO3 - PO4 £23,568 - £27,231 inc. (Ref: T/1761)

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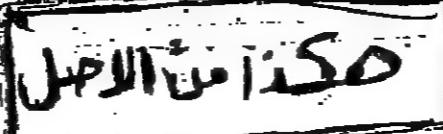
Closing date: 11 June 1996.

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For further information on this appointment please contact our retained consultant, Sally Horrox on 0171-377 0510 (evenings/weekends 0181-995 3396) or write to her at: Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 0171-247 5174. Email: sally@zmb.co.uk



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A strategic partner appointment to the Leeds office of one of the UK's most prestigious national law firms.

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The successful applicant should have a legal qualification, be able to write and edit well and have an eye for detail. A knowledge of insurance, reinsurance and environmental law would also be helpful.

The firm offers a competitive salary and benefits.

Please apply in writing, with full CV to: John Hanson, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7NJ.

Divine talent touched a generation

Simply the Best brought down by mere mortals



David Miller says a human tragedy off the pitch must not detract from a true genius on it

In a BBC2 interview broadcast on Sunday to celebrate George Best's fifth birthday this week, Michael Parkinson, the presenter who covered some football in his early journalistic days, suggested that Best was "a remarkable man". The truth, and the difficulty for Best in the failed attempt to handle his meteoric rise to fame, is that he was exceptional only when playing football.

The rash of reminiscences provoked by the birthday have dwelt too much on the wine and the women, too little on the mesmeric ability that enraptured the game for six seasons from 1964 to 1970. Best's 115 goals in 290 league, FA Cup and European Cup matches during that spell hint at only a fraction of the magic that he gave to an adoring public, young and old.

Thousands of footballers around the world have been unable, over the years, to cope with the temptation of drink and the attentions of fawning, exploitative and available women. The unhappy Best, whose emergence, like that of Maradona, from a humble background lifted him unprotected into a milieu where he found himself without sound advice or true friends, drowned in the maelstrom of adulation and Bacchanalian opportunity, where the only true regular partner was death.

He was the ultimate hostage to fortune, betrayed and even destroyed by the pop-culture environment that he adorned and helped to create: the simultaneous libertarian era of The Beatles and The Rolling

Stones, unrestricted wages and free love.

Yet, with a football at his feet, Best shares an equal place with the other five supreme players of my lifetime — Matthews, Di Stefano, Pelé, Cruyff and Maradona. There have been many other great players, such as Finney, Puskas, Garrincha, Eusebio, Charlton and Beckenbauer, but the supreme six did things that were unimaginable until you saw them being done.

We should offer sympathy,

'He was the ultimate hostage to fortune'

no condemnation, that Best and Maradona, confronted by commercial glamour and garrulous media greed, have succumbed to mortal vulnerability. Commentators have leeringly, almost enviously, talked of how many girls Best has bedded. We should rather remember how many full backs he buried.

Best came perhaps closest of all to perfection because he was an untouchable winger, the antelope who defies the lion, and simultaneously scored dazzling goals, again

and again. He was fantasy brought to life, and performed with such bravery and such flourish as to seem insolently arrogant.

Danny Blanchflower, as shrewd an analyst as any, conceded that Best's arrogance was fundamental to his performance, and judged him supreme because "he offers the greatest surprise to mind and eye, the more refined and unexpected range... with utter disregard of physical danger". There was no aspect of the game of which he was not master: creating, heading, scoring with either foot, even tackling, slight though he was.

He could ride the harshest tackles with uncanny balance and his changes of direction at close quarters defied understanding. "It seems impossible to hurt him," Joe Mercer said. Malcolm Allison's opinion was that "Best in possession is second only to Pelé".

On one occasion, when Manchester United were playing West Bromwich Albion at home, Best scored a goal that, surprisingly, is not among his own chosen favourites of all time. Finding himself confronted by a packed defence in the West Bromwich penalty area, he started dribbling away from goal. Suddenly, he turned in an instant and drove the ball from an acute angle past an astonished goalkeeper. Someone in the press box



Best came close to perfection as an untouchable winger who scored dazzling goals

pedantically asked what was the time in the match. A colleague poignantly observed: "Never mind the time, just make a note of the date."

To the end of his curtailed serious career, aged only 27, Best remained at heart a boy, joyously ruled by his love for the game, by the intoxication of his own skills and his longing for the next game. It was the one way he truly

expressed himself, and the expression was often poetic.

Sadly, he never matured, emotionally. A combination of physical abuse by frustrated opponents, the laxity of referees and his own penitence on the field, plus his emotional frailty on the field in conjunction with the managerial turmoil at Old Trafford after Sir Matt Busby's retirement as manager in 1969, brought the

premature decline of a glorious gift. His first wife, Angela, mother of the son with whom he remains in contact, has said that she could not look after two babies, and the older one had to go. It is a harsh summation of a player with divine abilities. Any caring sportsman will understand how Best was too brilliant for his own good. A genius without boundaries, in every sense.

Coulthard's renaissance fuels grand prix rumour mill

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN MONTE CARLO

THE French newspapers seemed almost as shocked as Olivier Panis had been on the winner's rostrum when they hit the streets here yesterday morning. "Panis? Unbelievable," *L'Equipe* said. "Panis the surprise" was the headline in two others. As he flicked through them in his Monaco apartment, David Coulthard was still trying to get over his disbelief.

"No disrespect to Olivier," Coulthard said, "but it would probably have felt better to have finished second to a Williams or a Ferrari than to a Tiger." He drove a "brilliant race and I know from experience that he does not make many mistakes, but still, you can't help thinking what might have been."

Coulthard finished a close second to Panis in the Monaco grand prix here on Sunday, robbed only by the Frenchman's quicker pit-stop mid-

way through the race that put him in the perfect position to capitalise on the mechanical misfortunes suffered by the previous race leaders, Damon Hill and Jean Alesi. Nevertheless, Coulthard's second consecutive podium finish confirmed the steady recovery of his McLaren-Mercedes team and shot him to the fore of early-season speculation about driver movements.

The young Scot is used to the rumour mill that feeds Formula One all year round,

having switched from Williams to his new team last year. Last weekend, rumours in the chaotic Monaco paddock suggested that his own renaissance was progressing so rapidly that he might be a target for the Stewart grand prix team that will enter Formula One next year.

Coulthard was part of Jackie Stewart's famous "staircase of talent" when he raced for him in Formula 3000. Both Stewart and his engine suppliers, Ford, are thought to be

keen to try to lure Coulthard away from McLaren at the end of the season, but the stumbling block may be the very ability that has made him so impressive in his recent races for the team. If McLaren continue to improve with him, then he is unlikely to want to move to an untested operation.

Speculation was also rife at Monaco that Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, was making initial inquiries with other drivers about the possibility of them replacing Alesi later this season. Briatore is thought to have spoken to Eddie Irvine, of Ferrari, Jos Verstappen, the Arrows driver, and Sauber's highly-rated German, Heinz-Harald Frentzen. Alesi's skillful drive here may have

brought him some more time. Alesi is also thought to have contacted his former mentor and team manager, Eddie Jordan, in case he is sacked by Benetton. Martin Brundle, the Englishman, is struggling to find his feet with the Irish team.

The machinations and manoeuvring for the placing of drivers next season may also bring bad news, of sorts, for Hill. It seems almost certain that Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of the double world champion, who is racing in the Japanese Formula 3000 championship, will force his way into Formula One next season, possibly with Sauber. One Schumacher has been bad enough, but two may be too much for Hill to bear.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Dealer South

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Spanish Armada

Although a significant chess power in the 16th century, with writers and players such as Ray Lopez, Spain has hardly counted since then as one of the world's top chess-playing nations. This may be about to change. The home-grown Spanish grandmaster, Miguel Illescas, has notched up a sequence of fine victories over the past year or so, while two former Soviet grandmasters, Valery Salov and Alexei Shirov, have made Spain their home.

The effect of this will not just be seen in a massively stronger Spanish representation at the chess Olympiad, but also in terms of a filtering down of chess expertise to younger generations. Today's games of Shirov, a victim of one wind and loss from the recently concluded Madrid tournament, Shirov's win against Kortschnoi is a game which displays fantastic powers of imagination in attack.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Boris Gelfand
Madrid, May 1996

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Walsh runs into resistance from Batty and Shine

By SIMON WILDE

BRISTOL (final day of four): Gloucestershire (9pts) drew with Somerset (9)

FEW matches can have had such a dramatic final day as this one. There were times when either side looked sure to lose — Gloucestershire at the start of the day, Somerset at the end — and yet, in the end, to the immense surprise of both teams and the largest crowd of this rainy and windswept match, neither did.

With Courtney Walsh, the lion-hearted Gloucestershire captain, charging in from one end, Jeremy Batty and Kevin Shine, the Somerset ninth-wicket pair, coolly played out the final 12 overs of the match. Had they got out during most of that period, Somerset would have lost but, as Smith bowled the final over, Peter Bowler raced onto the ground from hospital — where Walsh had sent him with a gashed forehead — and was padded up in time to face the last three deliveries if required.

Batty, who scored an unbeaten 36 from 56 balls, took the brunt of Walsh's hostility but Shine played a considerate part. Lest gifted with the bat than his partner, he faced 30 deliveries with aplomb, once he had overcome his

initial unease at facing the West Indian.

Walsh, in his first championship match for two seasons, was at his rampaging best and ploughed Somerset, pursuing a target of 250 in 49 overs, into complete disarray. He claimed five wickets for 69, forced two batsmen to retire hurt and bowled 21 of the 47 overs Gloucestershire actually delivered (two were lost to a short rain break).

After an early change of ends to take advantage of the breeze, Walsh produced countless smiting deliveries. One of them sent Bowler onto the back foot to fend a ball off his face but he lost sight of the ball, which found a way

TABLE

	P	W	L	D	R	Ps	Ps
Leicestershire (7)	2	2	2	1	10	54	54
Essex (5)	2	2	1	0	11	9	51
Kent (18)	3	2	1	0	1	51	51
Somerset (9)	3	1	0	1	2	47	47
Derbyshire (14)	3	1	0	1	12	39	39
Gloucestershire (6)	3	1	0	1	12	39	39
Worcestershire (11)	2	1	0	1	10	36	36
Nottinghamshire (2)	1	0	1	0	1	8	8
Warwickshire (10)	2	0	2	0	1	8	8
Northants (15)	2	0	2	0	1	8	8
Sussex (15)	2	0	2	0	1	7	7
Wales (10)	2	0	2	0	1	7	7

(Lower section in brackets)

BRISTOL SCOREBOARD

SOMERSET: First Innings 263 (7)							
K.M.Harrison 54; R.J.Turner 50;							
Second Innings:							
P.D.Walsh c Turner b Caddick 17							
P.C.Harrison c Turner & Shine 9							
J.Smith c Turner b Caddick 27							
A.Viney lbw b Caddick 27							
P.Rutter c Shine b Caddick 1							
P.J.Turner c Shine b Caddick 29							
M.C.Batty c Shine b Caddick 1							
J.Lomax lbw b Shine 26							
A.M.Smith c Shine 26							
P.D.Walsh not out 21							
Total 263 (7) 245-7; Extras 45							
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 5-61, 6-65, 7-127, 8-133, 9-133, 10-133, 11-133, 12-133, 13-133, 14-133, 15-133, 16-133, 17-133, 18-133, 19-133, 20-133, 21-133, 22-133, 23-133, 24-133, 25-133, 26-133, 27-133, 28-133, 29-133, 30-133, 31-133, 32-133, 33-133, 34-133, 35-133, 36-133, 37-133, 38-133, 39-133, 40-133, 41-133, 42-133, 43-133, 44-133, 45-133, 46-133, 47-133, 48-133, 49-133, 50-133, 51-133, 52-133, 53-133, 54-133, 55-133, 56-133, 57-133, 58-133, 59-133, 60-133, 61-133, 62-133, 63-133, 64-133, 65-133, 66-133, 67-133, 68-133, 69-133, 70-133, 71-133, 72-133, 73-133, 74-133, 75-133, 76-133, 77-133, 78-133, 79-133, 80-133, 81-133, 82-133, 83-133, 84-133, 85-133, 86-133, 87-133, 88-133, 89-133, 90-133, 91-133, 92-133, 93-133, 94-133, 95-133, 96-133, 97-133, 98-133, 99-133, 100-133, 101-133, 102-133, 103-133, 104-133, 105-133, 106-133, 107-133, 108-133, 109-133, 110-133, 111-133, 112-133, 113-133, 114-133, 115-133, 116-133, 117-133, 118-133, 119-133, 120-133, 121-133, 122-133, 123-133, 124-133, 125-133, 126-133, 127-133, 128-133, 129-133, 130-133, 131-133, 132-133, 133-133, 134-133, 135-133, 136-133, 137-133, 138-133, 139-133, 140-133, 141-133, 142-133, 143-133, 144-133, 145-133, 146-133, 147-133, 148-133, 149-133, 150-133, 151-133, 152-133, 153-133, 154-133, 155-133, 156-133, 157-133, 158-133, 159-133, 160-133, 161-133, 162-133, 163-133, 164-133, 165-133, 166-133, 167-133, 168-133, 169-133, 170-133, 171-133, 172-133, 173-133, 174-133, 175-133, 176-133, 177-133, 178-133, 179-133, 180-133, 181-133, 182-133, 183-133, 184-133, 185-133, 186-133, 187-133, 188-133, 189-133, 190-133, 191-133, 192-133, 193-133, 194-133, 195-133, 196-133, 197-133, 198-133, 199-133, 200-133, 201-133, 202-133, 203-133, 204-133, 205-133, 206-133, 207-133, 208-133, 209-133, 210-133, 211-133, 212-133, 213-133, 214-133, 215-133, 216-133, 217-133, 218-133, 219-133, 220-133, 221-133, 222-133, 223-133, 224-133, 225-133, 226-133, 227-133, 228-133, 229-133, 230-133, 231-133, 232-133, 233-133, 234-133, 235-133, 236-133, 237-133, 238-133, 239-133, 240-133, 241-133, 242-133, 243-133, 244-133, 245-133, 246-133, 247-133, 248-133, 249-133, 250-133, 251-133, 252-133, 253-133, 254-133, 255-133, 256-133, 257-133, 258-133, 259-133, 260-133, 261-133, 262-133, 263-133, 264-133, 265-133, 266-133, 267-133, 268-133, 269-133, 270-133, 271-133, 272-133, 273-133, 274-133, 275-133, 276-133, 277-133, 278-133, 279-133, 280-133, 281-133, 282-133, 283-133, 284-133, 285-133, 286-133, 287-133, 288-133, 289-133, 290-133, 291-133, 292-133, 293-133, 294-133, 295-133, 296-133, 297-133, 298-133, 299-133, 300-133, 301-133, 302-133, 303-133, 304-133, 305-133, 306-133, 307-133, 308-133, 309-133, 310-133, 311-133, 312-133, 313-133, 314-133, 315-133, 316-133, 317-133, 318-133, 319-133, 320-133, 321-133, 322-133, 323-133, 324-133, 325-133, 326-133, 327-133, 328-133, 329-133, 330-133, 331-133, 332-133, 333-133, 334-133, 335-133, 336-133, 337-133, 338-133, 339-133, 340-133, 341-133, 342-133, 343-133, 344-133, 345-133, 346-133, 347-133, 348-133, 349-133, 350-133, 351-133, 352-133, 353-133, 354-133, 355-133, 356-133, 357-133, 358-133, 359-133, 360-133, 361-133, 362-133, 363-133, 364-133, 365-133, 366-133, 367-133, 368-133, 369-133, 370-133, 371-133, 372-133, 373-133, 374-133, 375-133, 376-133, 377-133, 378-133, 379-133, 380-133, 381-133, 382-133, 383-133, 384-133, 385-133, 386-133, 387-133, 388-133, 389-133, 390-133, 391-133, 392-133, 393-133, 394-133, 395-133, 396-133, 397-133, 398-133, 399-133, 400-133, 401-133, 402-133, 403-133, 404-133, 405-133, 406-133, 407-133, 408-133, 409-133, 410-133, 411-133, 412-133, 413-133, 414-133, 415-133, 416-133, 417-133, 418-133, 419-133, 420-133, 421-133, 422-133, 423-133, 424-133, 425-133, 426-133, 427-133, 428-133, 429-133, 430-133, 431-133, 432-133, 433-133, 434-133, 435-133, 436-133, 437-133, 438-133, 439-133, 440-133, 441-133, 442-133, 443-133, 444-133, 445-133, 446-133, 447-133, 448-133, 449-133, 450-133, 451-133, 452-133, 453-133, 454-133, 455-133, 456-133, 457-133, 458-133, 459-133, 460-133, 461-133, 462-133, 463-133, 464-133, 465-133, 466-133, 467-133, 468-133, 469-133, 470-133, 471-133, 472-133, 473-133, 474-133, 475-133, 476-133, 477-133, 478-133, 479-133, 480-133, 481-133, 482-133, 483-133, 484-133, 485-133, 486-133, 487-133, 488-133, 489-133, 490-133, 491-133, 492-133, 493-133, 494-133, 495-133, 496-133, 497-133, 498-133, 499-133, 500-133, 501-133,							

Dr Massini setback causes confusion in Derby markets

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

BETTING markets on the Derby were thrown into turmoil when Dr Massini, favourite for the Blue Riband with Ladbrokes, stepped gingerly from his box at Michael Stoute's stables yesterday morning. The news came just hours after Dushyantor, the subject of similar reports on Friday, put himself back on track for Epsom when he cantered at Newmarket.

It remained unclear last night whether Dr Massini will recover quite so quickly.

Stoute said of the colt in a statement yesterday: "He pulled out lame on his offforeleg this morning and the lameness is being investigated.

We will issue a further statement when we are in a position to do so." Details of the setback are expected to emerge later today, after veterinarians have assessed various scans of the colt's limb.

Ladbrokes have taken Dr Massini out of the Derby betting and offer the colt at 4-1 with a run. "In the circumstances we think it is the fairest thing to do," the firm's Mike Dillon said. "If the trainer says the horse is fine, we will reintroduce Dr Massini immediately."

Ladbrokes' revised list is: 5-1 Glory Of Dancer, Dushyantor, 6-1 Even Top, 7-1 Mark Of Esteem, Alhambra, 14-1 bar.

William Hill and Coral have

left their markets undisturbed pending further information.

Dr Massini, owned by Michael Tabor, thrust himself into the Derby picture with a convincing dismissal of King Alex in the Michael Seely Memorial Glasgow Stakes at York last week. The Sadler's Wells colt was well backed for Epsom, both before and after that victory. Tabor could only sit and wait yesterday for the veterinary prognosis.

Unconfirmed reports during an afternoon of intense

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MARIGLIANO (3.55 Beverley)
Next best: Fairywings (4.25 Beverley)

speculation suggested that Dr Massini's troubles were not thought to be of a serious nature. Like several York runners last week, the colt returned home stabled.

Although he has since cantered on the Newmarket gallops, it would be unwise to pre-empt the outcome of the tests. Injuries to horses' limbs can be notoriously deceptive at first glance, as connections of Dushyantor discovered last week. Dushyantor was initially diagnosed as having sus-

tained ligament damage. Such a condition would have ruled him out of the Derby.

However, less than 24 hours later, it transpired that Dushyantor ailed from an infected hoof. His trainer, Henry Cecil, yesterday reported the colt firmly back on target for the Derby after Dushyantor joined the string on the gallops. "He cantered this morning and he is fine," said Tabor.

In addition to Dushyantor,

confirmed yesterday as the mount of Pat Eddery, Cecil plans to be represented at Epsom by Storm Trooper and Clever Cliche. Ironically, Mick Kinane rejected the ride on Storm Trooper in favour of Dr Massini. Willie Ryan has since been booked for Storm Trooper but riding arrangements surrounding Clever Cliche have yet to be finalised.

St Mawes, runner-up to High Baroque at Chester two weeks ago, attempts to advance his Epsom prospects in the Westminster Taxi Insurance Predominant Stakes at Goodwood today. This ten-furlong contest concludes the sequence of Derby trials and St Mawes was yesterday well backed with both Hills and Coral for the Blue Riband.

Coral cut the John Dunlop-trained colt to 16-1 from 25-1. A bold show is clearly anticipat-

ed this afternoon.



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GOODWOOD

2.10 THUNDERER
3.40 LEGAL RIGHT (nap)
4.10 Stone Ridge
4.45 Without Friends
5.20 Montendre

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 SYLVA PARADISE. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 KILVINE (nap). 3.40 Side Note. 4.10 Samba Sharpy.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 TREHEARNE & NORMAN MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: 94,784; 1m) (11 runners)

1 (1) DANNY HAMPOD (P) Sally Hunter 0-0-1 ... M Hill ...
2 (2) FAB 37 (H) M. J. H. ... M. Hill ...
3 (3) ROSEFIELD 10 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
4 (4) ROSEFIELD 10 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
5 (5) MAZED 11 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
6 (6) ROUSHAN 18 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
7 (7) SLOWE 15 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
8 (8) STONE ISLAND 11 (P) (C) Cagan 0-0-0 ... T Galvin ...
9 (9) ASKING 10 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
10 (10) TURBINE 10 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
11 (11) JAZ 22 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
12 (12) NAWAII 25 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
13 (13) NORTHERN BALTET 21 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
14 (14) D-0 THUNDER 21 (H) (G) ... M. Hill ...
15 (15) D-0 FORZA FIGLIO 9-2 ... M. Hill ...
16 (16) D-0 KHVINE 9-1 ... M. Hill ...
17 (17) D-0 GRANNY'S PET 9-1 ... M. Hill ...
18 (18) D-0 KILVINE 9-1 ... M. Hill ...
19 (19) D-0 SYLVA PARADISE 9-1 ... M. Hill ...
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21 (21) D-0 SPURS 9-1 ... M. Hill ...
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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 21 1996

A portrait of the artist as a tireless voyeur

Nudity, four-letter words: for a moment last night I thought I must be on Channel 4, watching the repeat of *Karaoke*. But no — I checked the remote control, there was no mistake. The channel was BBC1 and the programme — all bosoms, bottoms and critical invective — was *Omnibis*.

To be fair to its makers it would be difficult, nigh-on impossible, to produce a film called *Degas: An Old Man Mad About Art* without a pretty generous dash of three of female flesh. As Richard Kendall, an art historian clearly under instruction to keep the titillation content high, explained, this was pretty much what kept the old chap happy in his declining years: "For the last 20 or 30 years of his life he spent hour after hour, day after day, locked in his studio, painting naked women." Well, at least that explained the failing eyesight. His, I mean.

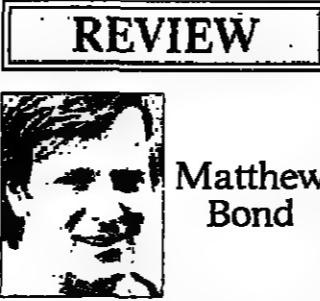
Serious appreciators of art will no doubt have gibbed at this tabloid treatment of an artist arguably (but apparently not very) labelled the greatest draughtsman of all time. Others, such as myself, who had him filed uncertainly under king of the stooped nudes (or was that Gauguin?), sat back and prepared to be educated. Which is how I now know that over his long working life Degas went from being awfully good at drawing to even better at colouring in.

Having flitted alarmingly with pretension in the early stages — "I remember very clearly the moment when I first became excited about Degas' late work" — Kendall proved a rewarding guide to his subject's evolving style. But whenever the pace of this drift into pastel threatened to slow, the producer would shout "more sex please, Richard" and we would be off again.

Montmartre, Pigalle, the Mou-

lin Rouge... we revisited them all. We learnt that Degas had got an early interest in "stocking tops and public triangles" out of his artistic system pretty quickly. To such an extent, in fact, that his later work could hardly be considered sexy at all — which, unless you have got a real thing about faceless women standing in washing-up bowls, seemed a pretty safe call.

All this, of course, said rather more about television than it did about art. But that may not have been altogether a bad thing, if one glorious exchange of artivis views towards the end of the programme was anything to go by. By now we knew that a picture of a nude female arched uncomfortably over the back of a sofa definitely wasn't sexy, so what was it about? "Is it a picture about the colour red?" asked Kendall. Howard Hinkin paused for an eternity and pronounced: "No." Lovely.



REVIEW

Matthew Bond

ry shot of the DNA double helix. There is no doubt he is producing fascinating television, but with two programmes now under his belt there are signs that their appeal is despite the genetics rather than because of it. The easy-going Jones is good company and more than happy to be sidetracked by his interviewees — taking us with him. Last week I learnt more about biblical history and modern Israel than I did about genetics and it was pretty much the same last night. The social stigma experienced by survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bomb or the marriage habits of Orthodox Jewish north London proved a lot more accessible than hunting mutations.

Jones gives the impression is reluctant to explain anything, presumably for fear of losing us; and on the rare occasion he does attempt to, you quickly understand why. Let us just say, he is not a

man to be let loose with the felt tips.

His preferred solution to the old lecture-room challenge of getting one important fact over is to leave us with a telling phrase. Last night the chosen fact was that it is not radiation or pollution that is the biggest threat to the genetic status quo, but elderly fathers. Having traced the incidence of haemophilia back through the Royal Families of England and Spain, he memorably concluded that "the mutation must have occurred in the August testicles of Queen Victoria's father". For the record, Edward, Duke of Kent was 51 at the time.

was a wickedly good month for salmonella.

The film embraced the inevitably latorial humour that helps the inspectors to get through the day a little too enthusiastically. The pictures of a filthy kitchen in a Chinese restaurant required little in the way of scatological embellishment.

But scatological we remained, largely thanks to Iggy the iguana, a pet reptile suspected of infecting a six-month-old baby with food poisoning. How do you test whether an iguana is positive for salmonella? Well, very carefully, for a start. Even Newcastle's intrepid faecal co-ordinator was having his doubts. But expert help was at rubber-gloved hand. "Have you done this before?" asked our man with the sample bottles. "Oh yes," replied the expert, applying cotton bud to saurian nether region. Definitely time for somebody to give up their day job.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (52605)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (83976)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (14260247)
- 9.20 Style Counsel (s) (771903) 9.45 *Klucz* (s) (6690159) 10.30 *Good Morning* (s) (33402) 12.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (163518) 12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (s) (5618150) 12.35 *Going for Gold* (s) (4308570)
- 1.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (86063)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (62505044)
- 1.40 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (s) (69023957)
- 2.00 *The Seaweed*; *Doris* (1540082)
- 2.20 *Racing from Goodwood* (s) (1842150)
- 3.50 *The Silver Brumby* (s) (235533) 4.10 *Demons the Menace* (Ceefax) (s) (2631334) 5.05 *Newround* (Ceefax) (709266) 5.10 *Activ-8* (Ceefax) (s) (6932773)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (626131)
- 6.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (773)
- 6.30 *Regional News Magazine* (353)
- 7.00 *2Point01 Children: Mayday*, Family comedy. The harmonious family Bank Holiday that Bill had longed for turns sour when Clive's German grandmother comes to tea (Ceefax) (s) (4315)
- 7.30 *EastEnders*, *Champagne flows at the Mitchell clan's christening party, but fate strikes a cruel blow at the height of the festivities; and David and Cindy find that they have differing views of the future* (Ceefax) (s) (5337)
- 8.00 *Funny World: The Funny World of Childhood*, Barbara Windsor introduces themed sketches and sit-com excerpts from the archive (Ceefax) (s) (2570)
- 9.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5537)
- 9.30 *Flying Soldiers: Airborne WALES*: 8.30 Week in Week Out 10.00 *Flying Soldiers* 10.30 *Cards* Arrest 11.00 *A Knife to the Heart* 11.50-1.20am *Film: Blind Hate*
- 10.00 *Cards* Arrest. Claire oversteals the mark when she pushes a bereaved father to consent to give his child's organs to save the life of a dying teenager; and a new nurse sets Raj's pulse racing (Ceefax) (s) (53537)
- 10.30 *A Knife to the Heart: The Great Organ Hunt*. In the final episode of the series about the history of transplant surgery, a look at the methods being employed to meet the demand for transplantable organs when there are not enough to go around (Ceefax) (s) (868570)
- 11.25 *FLM: Blind Hate* (1990). Based on the true story of Ku-Klux-Klan opponent Morris Dees and his determination to halt the Klan's plans to bring down the American Government. With Corbin Bernsen and Jenny Lewis Directed by John Korty (Ceefax) (s) (235857)
- 12.55am *Weather* (6680984)

VideoPlus+ and the **Video PlusCodes** The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allows you to programme your video recorder instantly with a Video PlusCode. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (*), PlusCode (*) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- 6.00am Open University: Understanding Space and Time (795508) 6.55 *Problems with Ioris* (7934315) 6.55 *The Origins of State Social Work* (5967808)
- 7.15 *See Hear* (Ceefax) (435597)
- 7.30 *Smurfs' Adventures* (64841) 8.00 *Blue Peter* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (7606082) 8.25 *Osade Dok* (s) (507495) 8.40 *The Record* (s) (5875957)
- 9.05 *Daytime on Two: The Limit* (s) (7514889) 9.45 *Watch* (s) (527605) 10.00 *Playdays* (t) (292171) 10.25 *Come Outside* (2058808) 10.40 *Lifeschool* (s) (5852421) 11.05 *Space Ark* (s) (9980080) 11.15 *Writing and Pictures* (Ceefax) (s) (9107353) 11.30 *Ghostwriter* (s) (4044) 12.00 *See Heard* (t) (43150) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (70792) 1.00 *Teaching Today* (s) (84605) 1.30 *Showcase* (s) (6259386) 1.40 *Holiday Potch House* (s) (6902159) 2.00 *Osade Dok* (s) (4598841)
- 2.10 *The Andrew Neil Show* (s) (7867228)
- 3.00 *News* (Ceefax) (7610044) 3.05 *Westminster* (Ceefax) (s) (9292353) 3.35 *News* (51516)
- 4.00 *Racing from Goodwood* (s) (266)
- 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (s) (150) 5.00 *Today's the Day* (s) (5421) 5.30 *Wartime Weddings* (r) (62266) 5.40 *The Ladies of the House*, *Emma Nicholson*, MP (355228)
- 6.00 *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* (s) (828150)
- 6.25 *Heartbreak High* (793841)
- 7.10 *Gower's Cricket Monthly*. David Gower presents the cricket magazine from Hove, where the Indian tourists take on Sussex (Ceefax) (s) (486334)
- 8.00 *The Works: The Secrets of S-21*. Three years ago photojournalists Christopher Riley and Doug Niven came across photographic evidence of one of Cambodia's infamous prison camps in Phnom Penh. (Ceefax) (s) (1605)
- 8.30 *Floyd on Africa*. (5/7) Keith Floyd combines his love of fine food with his passion for rugby as he reaches Durban on his tour of South Africa. Here he cooks a barbecue and discovers the delights of the local speciality of bunny chow, a selection of vegetable curries. (Ceefax) (s) (8452)
- 9.00 *Murder One Chapter Twelve*. The long-awaited Aviation trial begins, but is brought to an abrupt halt when news reaches Hoffman that his daughter has been abducted (Ceefax) (s) (617044)
- 9.30 *Flying Soldiers: Airborne WALES*: 8.30 Week in Week Out 10.00 *Flying Soldiers* 10.30 *Cards* Arrest 11.00 *A Knife to the Heart* 11.50-1.20am *Film: Blind Hate*
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- 12.55am *Weather* (6680984)



Caroline and Simon (8.45pm)

- 9.45 *Mermaids I'll Just See If He's In: Bosses and Secretaries* (Ceefax) (s) (62638) 10.00 *Newsnight* (Ceefax) (908080)
- 10.30 *Moving Pictures*, Film magazine (Ceefax) (515363)
- 12.00 *The Midnight Hour* (s) (32716)
- 12.30am-6.00 *The Learning Zone*

CHOICE

Without Walls: My Generation — Herman's Hermits Channel 4, 9.00pm

Herman's Hermits were the Take That of the 1960s, a boy band who projected a clean-cut image and sang songs you could tap your feet to. Behind the scenes, as this diverting memoir reveals, the reality was not so wholesome. The band once wrecked a hotel in Michigan and were blacklisted thereafter by the Holiday Inn chain. One of the members admits to becoming an alcoholic. But all the public saw, between 1964 and 1970, was an effortless flow of hits delivered with easy-listening charm. The band's popularity rivalled that of the Beatles, not least in the America. Even a dressed-up version of an old music-hall song, *I'm Every Woman*, had young girls screaming in the streets of New York.

Flying Soldiers: Airborne BBC1, 9.30pm

Ten young soldiers report for training at Middle Wallop in Wiltshire, hoping to fly helicopters for the Army. They have a year to earn their wings and we are assured it will be the most demanding year of their lives. The television cameras follow their progress, getting inside the cockpit to record the pilots' anxious faces and to share their eye-catching views. The pull of the series is twofold. First of all it gives those of us who will never get near a helicopter's controls the chance to experience the sensation from our armchairs. And, secondly, there is the fascination of seeing who will make it and who will not. Tonight's film concentrates on Corporal Mark Hitch. He had no previous flying experience and only just made the course. Now he is struggling to get through the first stage, which involves learning the basic skills on fixed-wing Chipmunks.

I'll Just See If He's In: Bosses and Secretaries BBC1, 9.45pm

With a jocular commentary by David Stafford, delivered by June Whitfield, a three-part series on the British secretary is off to a splendidly watchable start. Julie Cleverdon, chief executive of one of the Prince of Wales' charities, is a dynamic force but a hopeless timekeeper. Her ball and chain is her personal assistant, Bernie Hearn. Sometimes it is difficult to know who is in charge. Bernie agrees that she is bossy, saying that with Julie, she has to be. Pamela Lumb has been serving her boss for 12 years, and still calls him Mr Smith. In that time, she has made her a cup of tea twice. She says she sometimes feels like a mother hen. Simon Blagden admits that without his secretary he is helpless. Poor Caroline Richards can hardly go to the ladies without being called up on the internal mobile.

Network First: Miss Popular's Crack City ITV, 10.40pm

Karen Lawson, known as Miss Popular, may seem an unlikely recruit to the ranks of addicts to crack cocaine. From a comfortable middle-class background, married with two daughters, she lived in an expensive house in Nottingham. Then her husband fell into debt, the marriage broke up and drugs became a way of dulling the pain. When she ran into debt with her suppliers, she became a prostitute. Wendy, a fellow prostitute, became an addict at 13 and three years on she is pregnant. The film traces the women's stories and the efforts of a pioneering Crack Awareness Team to break their habit. Karen and Wendy are lucky to have somebody to care about them. Many addicts drift away beyond help. But you wonder, as you follow the women's shaky progress, whether it is already too late.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (4565650)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (7358599)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2908860)

10.00 The Time ... the Place (s) (250537)

10.38 This Morning (5057513)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1672402)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (4334995)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (4519689)

1.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (1953035)

2.25 Murder, She Wrote (r) (7873889)

3.20 News heading (Teletext) (7627334)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7628605)

3.30 The Magic House (r) (6239158) 3.40 *Tots TV* (r) (1064585) 3.50 *Sooty and Co* (r) (233711) 4.15 *Animaniacs* (Teletext) (5568898) 4.40 *Chris Cross* (s) (2005150)

5.10 Forgotten Parts (s) (6592247)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (626228)

6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (822976)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (841119)

7.00 Emmerdale. Dave takes pleasure in breaking some news to Frank and Pollard suggests a way in which Jan can wipe the slate clean. (Teletext) (s) (2711)

7.30 West Eye View. James Garrett investigates the threat of millions of pounds of worth of damage to the West's military bases due to lack of precautions and Alison Delaney gets to the bottom of the rising pollution problem in the Avon Gorge. (Teletext) (605)

7.45 *Mermaids I'll Just See If He's In: Bosses and Secretaries* (Ceefax) (s) (1619686)

7.55 Shortland Street (s) (59020880)

7.58 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (1619686)

8.25 Liz Earle's Lifestyle (19504179)

8.50-9.30 Surprise Chef (2128179)

9.10-9.40 *Three Minutes — Making It Happen* (567357)

9.45 *Meridian* (8411)

10.30-7.00 *On Your Marks* (421)

7.30-8.00 *Danger Money* (505)

11.40 *Prisoner Cell Block H* (973353)

12.00am *Freescreen*

SPORT

TUESDAY MAY 21 1996

RACING 45

INJURY COULD FORCE
DERBY FAVOURITE
OUT OF RECKONINGRush takes on
challenge of
reviving Leeds

BY PETER BALL

IAN RUSH'S supremely successful 16 years with Liverpool ended formally yesterday. The Wales international forward signed for Leeds United on a two-year contract, worth an estimated £1 million.

"Once I realised I wasn't in the frame at Liverpool, I looked at the clubs interested in me and Leeds appealed the most," Rush explained at a press conference at Elland Road. "I wanted to prove I can play in the Premiership with one of the best clubs. Leeds have the potential to go on and win things and that is what I want to do."

For their part, Leeds were equally pleased with their first signing of what is likely to be a busy summer at Elland Road, with the club up for sale and more transfer moves in the offing. "I said at the end of the season that the club needed a fresh impetus, that things needed changing, and I can't think of a better way of starting off that impetus than this," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said. "I am certain he will be as influential a signing as I have made in my time here. Hopefully,

people will see that we mean business."

Thus the Leeds revival is to be built upon a 34-year-old free transfer signing — but that is not the whole story. Wilkinson's transfer record is mixed, but the signing of another veteran from a great Lancashire club — Gordon Strachan, from Manchester United — was the catalyst for Leeds's rise to the top at the beginning of the decade. Rush has a lot to live up to.

Tribal warfare 8
Divine talent 43

Few will question his capability or his continuing desire to do so. The queue of clubs eager to persuade Rush, who scored 346 goals in 600 games for Liverpool, to join them covered four continents. Rush could have doubled his money if he had moved to Japan, but, after his unhappy year at Juventus, it was always likely that he would decide to stay in England. "I want to enjoy my football. If I'm not enjoying it I don't play to the best of my

ability," he said. Even at home, Leeds faced stiff opposition from Sunderland, Sheffield United and Blackburn Rovers, but his hunger for success undiminished, Rush had no doubts about his decision, not even Leeds's struggles last season dissuading him from the view that they represent the most likely source of further silverware to add to his 14 medals in 16 years.

"I'm not used to being second-best; I'm used to winning and I believe Leeds can go on and win things," Rush said. "They have some great players and I am excited about coming to Leeds — and Howard is the best manager tactically, which wasn't something we bothered about too much at Liverpool, so hopefully I will learn from him."

There is little doubt that, in turn, Wilkinson hopes Rush's Liverpool professionalism and, perhaps, confidence will rub off on his new teammates. Rush yesterday was talking about challenges for the championship, a topic hardly mentioned at Leeds since last August.

"I have no doubt about his hunger," Wilkinson said. "He could have sat his time out at Liverpool in the sunshine on the bench, but he still feels he has something to prove. He still has the appetite. There is no doubt he has the ability."

"He has done it all, seen it all and yet managed to remain a footballer. He sees his job as helping teams to win football matches, he's kept his feet on the ground. He will be a terrific influence around the club, a good role model for the kids, but above all he will be a tremendous asset to the team, he will help the team to win things. I can't wait for the season to start."

Any regret Rush had about leaving Liverpool were also subsumed in his eagerness for the new challenge. "I was sad when I played my last game for Liverpool, but it's a new challenge now and my main feeling is one of excitement," he said. "I can't wait to score my first goal for Leeds and I will probably be more excited by that than I was by my first for Liverpool."

LIVERPOOL, said last night, "but there is no way that he will be able to take any part."

The injury had already ruled Wright out of the tour of the Far East but until the scan, it had been hoped that ultrasound treatment might be enough to enable him to play next month.

It leaves Venables desper-

ately short of central defenders. Steve Howey, of Newcastle United, had already been added to the party in Wright's place but, Palister and Adams, his fitness also has a question against it.

At present there are no plans for an operation, but Wright has been told that he needs at least four weeks' rest. "Obviously it is a big blow for Mark and for England," Roy Evans, Wright's manager at

the European championship.

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Liberal bargains with Yeltsin for leadership role

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A YOUNG, charismatic and popular Russian politician has manoeuvred himself into the role of kingmaker in the country's presidential elections next month.

With President Yeltsin and Gennadi Zyuganov, his main Communist rival, running neck-and-neck in the polls, Grigori Yavlinsky, the candidate for the liberal Yabloko party is being courted for his small but loyal following which could tip the scales on polling day.

Mr Yavlinsky, 44, an economist, may not stand a hope of winning the election, but if his negotiations with Mr Yeltsin are successful he could land the post of Prime Minister and designate himself as Russia's next leader.

Mr Yavlinsky opened the bidding with a letter to Mr Yeltsin last week, setting out his terms for supporting the President's re-election bid. He demanded that Mr Yeltsin dismisses, by next Saturday, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, Oleg Soskovets, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Nikolai Yegorov, his Chief of Staff.

He also sought changes to the Government's economic programme, such as a higher

minimum wage and lower taxes, and new talks to end the conflict in Chechnya.

President Yeltsin wasted no time in responding positively to the offer. In an interview on Siberian television on Sunday, he said he was considering replacing "the greater part of the government team" with "fresher people" and "new ideas". He said: "I agree that it is worth slightly reinforcing our programme with parts of other candidates' platforms, and this is quite possible. Why, for example, not take all the interesting ideas which Yavlinsky proposed? ... Why not take those of other candidates?"

The Kremlin leader's conciliatory tone towards his rivals has more to do with opinion poll figures than his sudden conversion to their policies. The most recent figures give Mr Yeltsin a narrow lead over Mr Zyuganov; they each have about a quarter of the electorate's support.

Mr Yeltsin is clearly eyeing Mr Yavlinsky's nearly 10 per cent following. He has also had talks with two other presidential candidates General Aleksandr Lebed, a former paratrooper with about 5 per cent support, and Svyatoslav Fyodorov, an eye surgeon with about 3 per cent. If

Auctioneers eye estate of Grace

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

Princess Grace charity to help young artists

NEW YORK auctioneers, still astonished by the \$34.5 million (£22.5 million) success of last month's Jackie Onassis sale, were in a buzz yesterday at the possibility that the Grimaldis of Monaco may sell possessions of the late Princess Grace.

The Princess's son, Albert, is visiting Manhattan and was reported to be sympathetic towards the idea of a sale, for charity, of items owned by his mother.

A Monaco diplomatic official declined to comment on a suggestion that he would

meet representatives from auction houses, including Sotheby's, which held the Onassis sale. A source indicated that 5,000 items had been identified as being suitable for sale. London could vie with New York as an auction location.

Grace Kelly, the actress was known before marrying into the Royal Family of Monte Carlo, remains a big star in the United States. Her cachet as an American who wed European royalty, combined with her beauty and mystique, would ensure interest in any auction. She died in a car accident in 1982.

Sotheby's was silent yesterday and Christie's could not say if any meeting had been organised with Prince Albert. Proceeds from a sale could help the Princess Grace Foundation, a charity established in her memory to help young artists.

Joseph Keefhaver, vice-president of the American National Auctioneers Association, said yesterday: "A Princess Grace sale would have enormous appeal. We have had several inquiries precipitated by the Onassis sale. The public aspect and competitive nature of an auction is a prime advantage with celebrity sales. It brings about buying in a charged atmosphere."

Düsseldorf public transport workers, one with a mobile phone, on picket duty at the German city's train depot yesterday. Throughout the Ruhr, Germany's industrial heartland, 100,000 striking workers stopped trains and buses, and refused to clear dustbins or to deliver letters (Roger Boyes writes). The warning strike by public sector unions in North Rhine-Westphalia lasted only a few hours but disrupted work in thousands of offices and factories and hinted at what might happen if the trade union leadership carries out its threat to call a general strike in pursuit of a 4.5 per cent pay rise.

Ministers rebuff Croatia bid to join Council of Europe

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

EUROPEAN governments have issued an unprecedented rebuff to President Tudjman by refusing to endorse a call for Croatia to be admitted to the 39-nation Council of Europe.

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Next week, a full meeting of the council's parliamentary assembly in Greece will debate a call last week by European Union foreign ministers for Croatia's entry to be delayed until President Tudjman had given stronger guarantees on human rights, press freedom and democracy. Normally, a recommendation by the council's assembly is endorsed by member governments. But Western governments have been angered by Dr Tudjman's refusal to implement in the full Dayton accords, his crackdown on the opposition press and his attempt to annul the election of the Mayor of Zagreb and appoint instead a political ally.

At a meeting in Thessaloniki, the assembly will debate the ministers' call for a delay. A working group is expected to draw up a list of minimum conditions for entry, including greater press freedom and a promise to co-operate with the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for Yugoslavia, as well as a timetable for their implementation.

The Tudjman Government had promised a range of democratic reforms to gain entry to the council, seen as the European yardstick of democracy and human rights. Almost none has been fulfilled.

Eta blamed for death of soldier

A Spanish army sergeant, Miguel Angel Ayllón Diaz-González, was killed in Córdoba by a bomb blamed on the Basque terrorist group Eta (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The blast, in Carlos III Avenue, was the first violence by Eta since José María Aznar's Government took power.

Another soldier and two civilians were hurt. Police believe a military bus had been the intended target.

Hutu jail raid

Kigali: Suspected Hutu rebels attacked a village in Karengerera village, southwestern Rwanda, and freed more than 50 inmates who were among 71,000 Hutu genocide suspects in the country's jails. (Reuters)

Crocodile dare

Kuala Lumpur: Khalil Yaacob, chief minister of Malaysia's central state of Pahang, swam in Paya Sungai Lake to kill a rumour that it was infested with crocodiles and promote it for tourism. (AFP)

Taking a break

Sao Paulo: Forty-seven Brazilian prisoners, over half the inmates in a São Paulo police precinct, tunneled to freedom while their warders were watching television. Twelve were recaptured. (Reuters)

Motorway fumes

Cologne: Twenty-three people were taken to hospital with breathing problems after chlorine gas leaked from an overturned lorry on a German motorway near here. Others were treated at the scene. (Reuters)

Power struggle

Colombo: Sri Lanka's electricity authority has launched a non-stop prayer campaign for rain at its main hydro-electric generating station. The country faces a total blackout by next week. (AFP)

Mood music

Montreal: A troupe of 15 desert nomad musicians and dancers from Niger who are to perform at the Montreal Jazz Festival in July will be paid one cow each, a festival spokesman said. (AFP)

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Warning strike hits Ruhr

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Rage that can drive someone to kill

More than half of us admit to losing our temper at the wheel, reports Grace Bradberry

NINE out of ten motorists claim to have been the victims of road rage. Yet according to a survey by the Automobile Association only six out of ten admit to losing their own temper at the wheel.

This week, as detectives hunt for the driver of a Land Rover Discovery who is believed to have killed 21-year-old Stephen Lee Cameron just off the M25, drivers across Britain will be pondering the cost of such confrontations.

Until the summer of 1992, we did not even have a name for the honking, headlight flashing and tail-dogging that has become a feature of our highways. Now the term, borrowed from America, is known to everyone.

According to research carried out in Britain, the perpetrators of violence or aggression nearly always believe themselves to be the righteous victims of someone else's anti-social behaviour.

Tailgating, where motorists hug the bumper of the car in front, was experienced by 62 per cent of people in the AA survey. But only 6 per cent admitted to having done it themselves.

If we are honest, most of us will admit to having flashed our headlights in anger. Fewer of us will have made obscene gestures, deliberately obstructed another vehicle or professed verbal abuse.

The actual incidence of road rage is hard to assess. The 1994 *AA Report on Motoring* said that there were 1.8 million instances of people being forced off the road in 1993, and 500,000 cases where cars had been deliberately rammed by other cars. There were an estimated 800,000 cases of people being physically threatened, and 250,000 of actual attack by other drivers.

But there are no official figures for road rage — they are buried in



When a driver snaps: most road users say they have suffered from this sort of behaviour, but few will admit to being guilty of losing their own temper

more general statistics and the Home Office and the Department of Transport are still considering whether to collate them specifically.

In the meantime, the various psychological studies carried out

Strathclyde universities believe that more minor forms of rage are on the increase. "Society has become more competitive, and that is reflected on the roads," says Professor Shirley Fisher, a psychologist at Strathclyde's Centre for Occupational and Health Psychology.

The professor has spent many hours questioning drivers at roadside cafés and sees high speeds as a major factor. "If you're driving at nearly 90, then you're already showing all the symptoms of severe stress. If someone then sticks up two fingers, you can be triggered into an amazing state of arousal."

Researchers at Manchester and

it is not just a question of faster, better cars, she says, but of huge pressures to reach meetings on time. "Other drivers don't know your motives and they react in a very hostile way."

In the past, a minority of people might have behaved aggressively, but we have all now developed that potential. "There's a feeling that we can all be powerful now, and one place that we're competing for that power is on the road," says Professor Fisher.

There is no firm evidence to prove that either men or women are more culpable. However, research carried out by Manchester University's Driver Behaviour Research

Group found that young men were more likely to commit violations such as shooting red lights or speeding. But women over the age of 35 were also prime culprits.

It is not simply a question of flouting the Highway Code. "Driving is stressful, and it's probably becoming more stressful as we grind towards gridlock," says Dr Steve Stradling, one of the Manchester team. "From time to time, everyone feels threatened and becomes angry."

Dr Stradling has identified two personality types most likely to act out their anger. The first group contains those with a personality disorder — psychopaths.

The second group is the narcissists. These are the people who know the right way to drive and are incensed when others appear ignorant. Asked why they overtook on the inside, then slowed down to 20 miles an hour to block the road, they will insist that they were giving their victim a useful lesson.

That sort of thing has a nasty habit of escalating. Colin Johnson, 32, a telephone engineer, recalls the time that his own retaliatory driving nearly led to something much uglier.

"I was on the M3 when a high-performance Mazda came right up on my bumper and began flashing his lights. Normally I would

Joseph Connolly visits the Swiss clinic famous for its rejuvenating jabs

Too young at 45 for the elixir of youth



La Prairie claims Churchill and Thatcher as clients

So," I was asked on the plane, just before we touched down at Geneva, "are you really going to have the injections?"

Injections? Me? No fear. Why then was I going to Montreux's celebrated Clinique La Prairie? This is its specialty — its international renown over the past 65 years rests upon its programme of injected rejuvenation. Some hopefuls swear that here, within a grail, slops around the mythical elixir of life, youth, beauty and loads of other stuff generally agreed to be a mighty good thing.

Now I am as much in need of rejuvenation as the next man, but at 45 I am apparently too young (yippee) — 50, 60 or 70 is, I was told by the resident senior physician, Dr Walli, much nearer the mark.

Dr Walli scoffs at talk of an elixir of youth. The CLP Extract, as it is called, is taken (although you may not care to know this) from the foetus of an unborn lamb — largely the

liver, with touches of kidney and spleen, to taste. Treatment consists of four injections once a year.

He is a nice chap, Dr Walli; humorous and easygoing, and well aware that the process can be looked at askance as well as ridiculed. But he is absolutely committed to his belief in the good it can do.

"The purpose is to let people enjoy every single day of their lives just as if they were young — it is more an internal thing than a beauty treatment, although skin tone, dexterity and hair condition are very often improved."

The doctor is as coy as all expensive establishments are about who actually uses their services: he admits to Marlene

Dietrich, Sir Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle and François Mitterrand (all of whom are safely dead). Beyond this a silence falls, but your intrepid reporter has been sniffing around and can now name some names: my unimpeachable source tells me that top of the list is none other than our very own Baroness Thatcher (a very satisfied customer, by all accounts — and let's face it, a pretty good advertisement), followed by Dr Christian Barnard, David Bowie and Diana Ross.

Sadly there are no before-and-after pictures. The doctor alludes to general wellbeing — not as it turns out another illustrious client, but the almost universal outcome of the treatment.

So here I am, a guest of the place: too young to be made

younger, so what do I do? Well, there is sleep: my elegant, balconied room is in the older chalet-style building (as opposed to the very sleek and glossy state-of-the-art new one, where all the serious stuff goes on). It is an odd room — pretty luxurious (orchids, electronic bed, remote-control lights) and a bit institutional (fine floor).

"Call for a nurse if you need one in the night." I said I would bear it in mind.

The food is divine, beautifully presented, every mouthful quite sublime — but I really ought to have some treatment, right? One suggested easy option was a gentle 20-minute stroll along the edge of Lake Geneva (very beautiful) to a perfect medieval castle, Château Chillon. It sounded good. Twenty minutes? It takes over two hours,

This huge and frosty tub is populated by small piranha fish who refuse to die: they nip, they grasp, they beat you up. You cook, your legs are rubber — you get out feeling black and blue but all you are is red.

Naturally enough, none of this comes cheap: £6,000 a week is minimum, but extras (Mercedes limousine from the airport for 50 minutes, £250 — hair-brushing, £25) could soon see it rise to nearer £8,000 (£10,000 with injections).

As I was leaving, a semi-ancient American guy called me over. "Hey — how many injections did you have to get hair like that?" "Just the one," I replied. "Mind you," I tacked on, spreading my arms like a mendacious angler, "it was one hell of a syringe."

• Clinique La Prairie, CH-1615 Clarens-Montreux, Switzerland (01 21 389331), fax 3893339

As I was leaving, a semi-ancient American guy called me over. "Hey — how many injections did you have to get hair like that?" "Just the one," I replied. "Mind you," I tacked on, spreading my arms like a mendacious angler, "it was one hell of a syringe."

Even when the nail is distorted, thickened and raised, the condition described as onychomycosis, it has a 70 per cent chance of

Itching for a cure

Fungus infection can be a problem for us all

as a raised red rash, often of a ringlike appearance with the central part of the affected area being clear.

The journal *Dermatology in Practice* has recently reported on the much higher incidence of ringworm to be found in the owners of cats rather than dogs, although apparently experience shows that the family doctor nearly always blames the dog.

A minor attack of ringworm can be controlled by applying such creams as Daktarin or Imidazole, but if it becomes widespread an oral preparation such as griseofulvin will be needed.

A common fungus often affecting travellers to exotic holiday spots is *Tinea versicolor*, which can ruin an expensive tan by causing multiple white speckles to spread over what had previously been perfectly browned flesh.

A bath using a fungicidal hair shampoo such as Nizoral may be enough to kill the fungus, but if not a five-day course of Sporanox capsules will eradicate it. Unfortunately the white patches will take months to regain normal skin colour.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

women prefer to take an oral preparation rather than use pessaries and cream to treat vaginal thrush; both Sporanox and a related compound, Diflucan (fluconazole), are useful preparations and have become the drugs of choice.

Recently the medical journal *Pulse* has drawn attention to their interaction with some modern antihistamines. Care also needs to be taken when prescribing these preparations for people who are known to have liver disease, or who are heavy drinkers.

Fungi which cause ringworm in pets are also a cause of the itch which can afflict pet owners. Ringworm appears

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King of trash stops playing the clown

Antoine de Caunes describes his new and very serious film as "a little fable". Imagine instead a cross between *The Sound of Music* and a feature-length version of *Delta Smith*.

We are in a small kitchen looking out on a sweep of French Alps, and the hills are alive with the smell of onions. Evening is approaching, and the star, cast in the oxymoronic role of French New Man, is preparing supper.

"Cut," says the director for the hundredth time, and Antoine, who has now dissected the greater part of the Spanish onion crop, pauses at his chopping board while an assistant sweeps the discarded chunks into a rubbish bag.

De Caunes is normally responsible for a different kind, and his critics might think, equally disposable — form of *Eurotrash*. The TV series which made him a star in Britain is not big on haute cuisine, although it did redefine Belgium as the place whose inhabitants eat rat stroganoff. It also labelled Italy the host country of the Miss Transsexual Beauty Contest, Germany the home of the Tantric sex school and pigeon-holed de Caunes's co-host Jean Paul Gaultier, as Europe's top purveyor of sex and vulgarity.

Or, as de Caunes puts it: "It is just fun — like kids playing together." Nursery school resumes in the autumn. Meantime devotees can catch him on Channel 4, where he is presenting a language programme called *Channel Hoping*, in which he explores the culture — or lack of it — of French broadcasting.

Predictable enough, but an odd thing has happened to de Caunes. A few months ago, at the height of his success, he walked away from the French TV show he had presented daily for the last seven years.

He had scandalised and amused a country enthralled by exploits such as interviewing Jack Lang, the former French cultural minister, in the nude. ("Actually, I was wearing a little placard to cover the vital parts, but I felt a bit vulnerable, and he was very furious.") By then de Caunes was growing bored with redefining the boundaries of good taste.

"It's finished. It's over, and it was such a big relief. I wanted to be an actor. I wanted to write. I didn't want to become an old and pathetic clown."

He says he is 42. I make him 43, but what is a missing year

I couldn't draw a frontier between work and outside'

totally, and for someone who lives with you, that looks like hell.

"They both left me, but it was not a case of war or betrayal. I have been alone for nine months, and I have no interest in looking for women. I do not behave like a peep, but it is just too difficult for a girl to live with me."

Piggish or not, it is hard to imagine anyone seriously considering this invitation.

Antoine the matinée idol (although clearly an improvement on the *Eurotrash* version) is a weary-looking workaholic who has been fizzing through the night and soon disappears to reheat how to chop an onion. Alain Delon does not instantly spring to mind. Nor does any instant clue to his cult status.

The truth, normally heavily disguised, is that he is a more engaging and thoughtful man than his material suggests. The son of two successful French television journalists, he was brought up in the Paris suburbs and dispatched to a Jesuit boarding school, partly to curb his rebelliousness and

Television host Antoine de Caunes is leaving his wild years behind to cater for more sophisticated tastes, he tells Mary Riddell

ships broke up it was the same kind of mourning — that miserable feeling that you will never do anything like that again."

It took until this year for him to realise that, with the exception of *Eurotrash*, he did not wish to carry on with a career which had made him both rich and idolised. "I wanted a feeling of danger. I was just drifting along, and if you do that you're dead. I was very scared when I gave up, but I knew that I wanted to write movies and act in them. Still, when I left TV, I felt as if I had abandoned my family. It was very depressing."

By then he had already completed two film parts. The current one, in Jacques Faustier's *C'est pour la bonne cause*, explores the integration of Rwandan refugees sent on holiday to France.

A responsible social drama in which all the participants remain fully-clad, it will keep de Caunes in the Alpine town of Annecy for the next month.

After that he will finish a screenplay for French TV before, he hopes, making a British film with Steve Coogan and Jennifer Saunders. His pace, as always, will be a round of 20-hour days with little spare time.

His daughter is just starting out as an actress — a spur, you would think, for him to abandon the Boy Scout uniforms and the Prince Charles ears so indispensable to his *Eurotrash* routines, but they will not be disposed of quite yet.

"I do not think those were my wild years, and they're over. I will not necessarily say No if I get into another project which is crazy and nerdy." But nuts, for the moment, play no part in a career now dedicated to far more sophisticated tastes. Such as onions.

When I left TV, I felt as if I had abandoned my family'



Cult figure: Antoine the matinée idol is a weary-looking workaholic who has been filming through the night

Giles Coren looks at nepotism and the media

Keeping it in the family

The first article I wrote in a national newspaper generated a letter from a reader. I had arrived. I had joined the arena of public debate. I sat back from my screen to read it: "Your piece on Dudley Moore was rubbish," it read. "You are not funny and nor is your father. Neither of you can write, and you are both bastards. You resent Dudley Moore because your father is a failure, and you only got your job because of him."

This was a poor start. When I wrote stories at school as a small child, the other children would insist that my father had written them. When I was older, one of my English teachers would tell people I had only gone into university because of my father. Who knows? He may have been right.

But faced with the prospect of a life of self-justification, I have occasionally gone so far as to deny my family. With a father and sister already successfully entrenched in journalism, the idea that the profession would be able to stand another Coren seemed unlikely.

Nepotism in the media is the subject of dozens of newspaper articles every year, the latest crop fuelled by a tirade from Channel 4 director of programmes John Willis (son of scriptwriter Lord Ted, I think, rather than fast bowler Bob) and a factually miserable rant from Ros Coward in *The Guardian* (she could be related to Noel but shows no signs of an inherited sense of humour). Also infiltrating a couple of Radio 4 programmes at the weekend, the integrity police have been trotting out the familiar list of names: The Dimblebys (David and Jonathan, sons of Richard); The Magnussons (Magnus and daughters Sally and Margaret); Gloria Hunniford and her daughter Caron Keating-Barry; Samantha and Emma Norman; Zoe Ball, daughter of Johnny; Max Hastings, son of Macdonald; The Franks; The Wyatts ... the list has the whiff of witch-hunt about it, like a wall-

poster in a totalitarian state, inviting quislings to denounce others they might have come across.

You might wonder, if you care for it is a truism that only journalists notice bylines) whether the implicated scions lose any sleep over it. Few of them, in fact, were prepared to talk about it. Some cited a reluctance to enraged their parents, others the faint hope that no one had noticed and they didn't want to draw attention to it, thank you. Others admitted they were so embarrassed, they blushed just thinking about it.

dad's memory. Because he was such a good foreign correspondent, my own witterings look all the more frivolous by comparison.

In this she is not alone. None of us is as good as our parent, and to be a pale imitation is rather boring. It is like being a cutting, nicked off the main plant and stuck in a pot with some hormone powder to see how it gets on. Every now and then, some media friend of your parent will notice you and indulgently say "aren't you doing well?" And, like talking to plants, it doesn't really help.

Albert Read, 26, son of Piers Paul and grandson of Heribert, is the *Daily Express* opinion editor. "I am happy to admit that it has been a bit of a leg-up," he says, "but there are lots of reasons why people are given jobs: because they are good-looking, nice, or funny. Ability to do the job is only a part of it." In the office, as much as in our social lives, we are inclined to surround ourselves with people we like. It may be unfair, but it is inevitable. I have so far avoided commissioning my father — which would raise a few eyebrows — but only because he is too expensive.

This is crucial. We are cheap. If you want a Coren, a Read or a Wyatt, you can have the offspring for a fraction of what the patriarch would charge.

But the media is obsessed with its own chastity, and the impulse to spout venom at fellow professionals who are perceived as less than worthy is so irresistible that truth can fall by the wayside. Ros Coward ranted that Victoria Coren had inherited her father's column in *The Times*. But he is still there, and she appears with horrid regularity in every daily paper apart from *The Times*. Mud sticks better when slung in the right direction.

You can't help wondering how Ms Coward got her job. And if it was by the long and arduous paying of dues, did she miss the lessons on fact-checking, as well as the ones on charm?

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Why we must stop EMU now

Europe is not ready for a single currency, says Wilhelm Nölling

The people of Europe are uninform and ill-at-ease about the prospect of giving up currencies in which they place considerable trust. Economic and monetary union is a goal that I support in general, but which I believe will come about naturally one day as a concomitant of greater European integration. It would be the utmost folly to bring it about too soon, when political and economic conditions are not right. Monetary union not only distracts attention from Europe's biggest problem, unemployment, but makes it worse. Its probable positive effects are modest, and they have to be weighed against the disruption caused by a premature and radical transformation of Europe's monetary order.

The EMU plan faces difficult technical, legal and conceptual obstacles. One of the greatest, to which little attention has been paid so far, is the immense cost of converting EU economies to a euro-based system. Projected costs of replacing the various currencies are very high. Europe needs more investment, but this is not the right use of the continent's resources.

One of the principal claims made for the single currency is that it would be as stable as the mark. This is possible, but not at all certain. There is a risk that politicians will try to soften the convergence criteria if, as seems likely, most EU countries, including Germany and France, fail to meet the conditions for budget deficits and public-sector debt. This would undermine the stability of the new currency, as the euro would lose credibility in the eyes of the markets.

The judgment of the German Constitutional Court when the Maastricht treaty was ratified in 1993 makes clear that the convergence criteria must be strictly applied. The decision on EMU membership needs to be taken, at the latest, in Spring 1998. If the German Government fails to take a rigorous view of the criteria, those of us who oppose an overhasty union are certain to launch lawsuits in the court that will re-examine the procedure. This would produce additional uncertainty, creating political problems and destabilising foreign exchange markets. This is the opposite of what monetary union is supposed to achieve.

The present economic framework for EMU fails to establish an adequate mechanism for constraining governments' fiscal policies once exchange rates have been irrevocably fixed. There is, however, an intriguing and alarming corollary to this lack of control over budget deficits and inflation: the planned European central bank will have immense power to fix interest rates throughout the euro-zone. This imbalance between fiscal and monetary policy is a potentially fatal flaw.

Europe's most pressing challenge is how to combat mass unemployment. Yet EMU would impose a strait-jacket and make a bad situation worse. Instead of the flexibility conferred by the capacity to vary exchange rates, the Maastricht rigidities will lead to more unemployment, starting a spiral of wage reductions

Monetary union has been put forward as a miracle cure for Europe's ills. It is supposed to bind Germany firmly into Europe, to end the dominance of the Bundesbank and much more. This proliferation of expectations can lead only to disillusionment when the project fails to deliver the wonders that its supporters claim.

Likewise, absurdly exaggerated suggestions have been put forward of the cost if EMU does not go ahead. It is alleged that the single market would be impaired or even fall apart. This is nonsense. The EU will continue to develop even if we do not have monetary union for several years. Grotesque overstatements of the alleged harm caused by postponing EMU do an immense disservice to European unity. The sooner governments take a decision to delay EMU, perhaps for five to ten years, the better off we shall all be.

Professor Nölling was a member of the Bundesbank council, 1982-92. On Thursday at 5.30pm he will take part in a public debate at the LSE.



THE TEN TORIES EXPEDITION, DARTMOOR

Afraid of adventure

Are we raising our children to be a generation of outdoor illiterates?

We live on a challenging island. The Army had to airlift hundreds of teenagers off Dartmoor at the weekend, when the Ten Tors expedition was hit by blizzards; yet the last time a large number were rescued (in May 1988) it was from heat exhaustion. With such a climate, who could ever be bored? Bad-tempered, certainly, but not bored. Two hundred years ago, William Cobbett observed hailstones in the hayfields and observed that "June in England is a compound of hay and ice". Dwellers on this treacherous rock need to be ready for anything, and a deep instinct tells me that the day we cannot cope with that is the day of our final decadence.

So my heart rejoiced to see the pictures of weary children in sodden anoraks being ushered out of Sea King helicopters after their Dartmoor adventure. Not only was the rescue a sensible decision and a copybook operation; it was also heartening to be reminded that 2,400 schoolchildren between 14 and 19 were out there in the first place. They were attempting a bleak moorland and hill walk of up to 55 miles, in self-sufficient groups of six. Some did finish despite the weather, and others reached safety on foot. The Army has decided that they all deserve medals just for being out there in the first place, and quite right too.

There should be medals also for the schools, parents, associations and organisers who put them there. This is no longer an easy thing to do. Despite a general murmur of lip-service to the benefits of fresh air and exercise, the practice of "outdoor education" is under grave threat, with many schools quietly replacing it with tamer pursuits.

This is bad news, because there are already enough signs that we are turning into a nation of outdoor illiterates. Every winter, flimsily dressed people are rescued from snowdrifts; I once helped to pull three cars out of a lane with a Land Rover and noticed that everyone wore thin shoes and summer clothes, because they simply could not believe in a world outside their heated cars. Every summer, innocents stroll off up Welsh mountains mapless and leaderless without a glance at the weather forecast; countless members of this island race are rescued by the RNLI after drifting out to sea on Lilos, climbing down cliffs to take pictures

of waves, or setting out sea-fishing with no oars, spare engine, life-jackets or flares. In the Land's End school disaster — and certain ski-trip incidents since — the most frightening thing was the apparent ignorance of the teachers themselves about the risks that nature, however pretty, presents to the unwary. Outdoor illiteracy is a dangerous thing; who can doubt that we need outdoor education?

Of course, it must be done properly. Ironically, it has been the slovenly cosmetic approach — all PR and no substance — which has

helped to frighten off parents and schools. The principle that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing was illustrated horribly by the Lyme Bay disaster, when an apparently smart centre (I feel strongly about this, because my son was there the summer before) turned out to be so illiterate about basic safety that a pack of novice canoeists were sent out in an offshore wind without escort boat, flares or emergency radio-beacons (an emergency position indicating radio beacon, incidentally, now costs less than £200). Yes, these things should be done properly, but that is no excuse for not doing them at all.

Do not confuse outdoor education with sport. Sport may keep you fit, but it generally happens within easy reach of warm showers, hot food and medical services. Outdoor education, on the other hand, may demand less skill but does insist that you confront real uncertainties in mountain, moorland, sea or forest. It demands not showy physical excellence, but doggedness and horse-sense. In a sport, if you get tired you can stop. Out in the wild, you can't. Sport has rules governing the angle of the hockey stick, hardness of the ball, and so on; the real world, as the Dartmoor walkers could tell you, does not care whether you live or die.

Some activities straddle sport and true outdoor education: if you go up the climbing-wall at the leisure centre or sail round the buoys on the reservoir, that is sport; going up

Snowdon or sailing offshore is outdoor education. Interestingly, some sporting stars are useless when cut off from the comforts of the club-house. I once sailed in a crew in which the bespectacled weed and tubby navigator came into their own on a wild night, doggedly steering on while a muscular rugby hero and a crack dinghy helmsman lay in their bunks prostrated by seasickness and terror. Yet we defy sport and hardly speak of outdoor education.

A real expedition, in real wilderness, shows children the eternal reality beneath the thin skin of civilisation. It takes them beyond the shallowness of fashion and style to point out certain basic truths without which a great deal of history, literature and art will never properly touch them. It demonstrates that clothes are for warmth and protection first; that food is fuel, that cold and heat kill you and that you have to watch your companions as closely as yourself.

Libby Purves

Yet outdoor education is increasingly under threat. We grow softer every year, insisting on swimming baths heated to a soppy warmth and windows double-glazed to keep out the dangerous air. The pictures from Dartmoor will not have heartened everybody: voices will be raised in indignation at boys and girls being there at all, when they could have been playing five-a-side football in some concrete leisure facility approved under the Children Act. Also, we are becoming a horribly litigious nation, quick to blame, and increasingly dirty-minded in our automatic suspicion of anybody who wants to lead children on camping expeditions. No wonder that schools find it ever harder to summon enthusiasm for such activities: teachers' hours, insurance problems, parental worry and sheer inertia all militate against genuine challenges.

Far easier to play safe with mere sport or with watered-down activities. A lot of Guide and Scout camps, for instance, now seem to take place

in the secure gardens of troop leaders, with water from the kitchen tap rather than boiled up from some brackish stream. More and more adventure centre prospectuses place stress on their carefully designed assault courses and canoe training in swimming pools, rather than on confronting the works of nature. All this may be fun, but it is not adventure, and its educational value is limited. Ironically, proper adventures are becoming the preserve of affluent middle-class youth: independent schools such as Gordonstoun can afford to lure their clientele by making their adventurousness a selling point (and can afford full insurance for teachers who lead it).

Their colleagues in the state sector, overworked and over-regulated, have a harder time of it. It takes real strength of character in a head to encourage the potentially troublesome option of real outdoor education rather than accept some smooth, safe substitute.

Few state schools, for example, would happily increase their burdens by following the admirably eccentric example of Mrs Campion, head of St Felix independent girls' school in Suffolk, who three years ago instituted the Upper Fourth survival challenge. She sent a whole year of 12-year-olds into the woods for two nights with nothing but the SAS-type equipment of bin-bag, candle-stub, razorblade and so forth (they left out the condom, prescribed by the SAS as a water-carrier, out of prudent delicacy for parents' feelings). The little girls were trained and led by a survival expert, and otherwise the only concession to their tender years was that they were issued with already dead rabbits to skin for their supper (vegetarians had to eat nettle soup and learn that Linda McCartney ready-meals do not hold up around in forests).

It rained incessantly: some girls

were rescued, having proved incapable of building waterproof shelters — a failure which in itself was highly educational and will give them a whole new respect for Bushmen. Other groups lasted the course, thanks to their native wit and doggedness. In the midst of it, I asked an elegant creature, her unprotected hair streaming wetly like a dog's ears, what she had learnt from the experience. "Er... not to go out when it's raining," she said.

Well, it's a start. She'd never have found that out in the short gap between the minibus and the heated leisure-dome.

Privatised shares are private

Labour bankers after control, says Woodrow Wyatt

Once the dictatorship of the proletariat had been established, government was supposed to wither on the vine. But it never did: Lenin and Stalin liked power too much and became the dictators of the proletariat. Once competition was established, the regulators of the newly privatised utilities and industries, from whom there is no appeal, were supposed to vanish. But they haven't. Whatever their politics, regulators love regulating. New Labour never ceases to assure business and industry that old Labour's belief in nationalisation is dead; a Labour government would be friendly to private enterprise.

Clare Short, however, has worked out an elaborate scheme for returning Railtrack to public ownership without, she claims, injuring the 650,000 shareholders. They will be able to buy a new kind of debt-equity share — but their original investment will lapse whether they like it or not.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, last week confirmed that the windfall tax on privatised utilities, expected by his advisers to raise £2.3 billion, would be spread over three years. The tax is to fund training schemes for the young unemployed and unskilled — which already exist and to which Labour's schemes are unlikely to add anything useful. Mainly, this is an expression of Labour's uneradicated longing for nationalisation. The excuse for the windfall tax is the offensive and sudden riches of top executives created by options and bonuses of which the ordinary shareholder was unaware when he bought the shares. About ten million private shareholders, including me, own at least 10 per cent of the privatised utilities.

Gordon Brown's huge fine is confiscation — and partial nationalisation, as it involves a savage drop in the value of shareholdings, setting a precedent for further windfall taxes whenever a government is short of cash. The effect on overseas investors would be calamitous.

Regulation is needed so long as a newly privatised utility is a monopoly. There will always have to be regulators for water, to ensure that the water companies comply with standards of purity and do not overcharge consumers. Even so, the aim of the regulator should include pressure for greater efficiency and a decent return for the shareholders. A superb example of this has been Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator for electricity. He has forced electricity companies to bring down prices with a discipline which enables them to make higher profits for the shareholders. When there is sufficient competition in the industry, the only regulation required will be on the national grid monopoly (because to duplicate the service it provides would be a waste of resources). Already there is some deregulation in electricity supply: large business customers can choose from which company to take their electricity, or to make it themselves. By 1998, all customers will have the same choice.

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, is right to ensure that TransCo, owner of the national gas pipelines, does not abuse its monopoly. She is aware in penalising its parent, British Gas, by wayward accounting. She has departed from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's ruling on how depreciation and the value of assets should be calculated. Arbitrarily, she has slashed the asset value and the share price of British Gas.

To the severe detriment of trusting Sid, who will hardly feel compensated by a reduction in gas bills for shareholders and non-shareholders alike.

Unsurprisingly, Margaret Beckett, Labour's Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, fully supports Clare Spottiswoode. Undoubtedly, British Gas will refer the case to the monopolies commission, asking it to uphold its 1993 rulings. The only change since then has been to the good, except for Clare Spottiswoode's destructive accounting.

British Telecom was a monopoly when first privatised, so a regulator was obviously necessary. BT, as everyone with a telephone knows, has steadily reduced its prices and improved its services, as well as making large profits for its shareholders. It is no longer a monopoly. I am a BT shareholder. My phone is now ingeniously equipped with a system which automatically decides whether my call is cheaper through BT or Mercury. It is patently absurd for the Department of Trade and Industry and the director-general of Ofcom to police BT, other than to ensure that it does not charge excessively for the lines its competitors use. Even this dwindles to insignificance as firms like Paknet increasingly transmit telephone services through the ether. As a result of the unreasonable interference by the Government and the director-general of Ofcom, BT shares have consistently underperformed on the FTSE index, though shareholders have provided the means for the investment which has made BT a world leader.

When a deregulating Conservative Government persists in squashing BT and refusing to deregulate the outmoded regulation of other privatised concerns, Heaven knows what would be in store from Labour.

Hurd not seen?

THE MURKY secret life of Douglas Hurd can be revealed at last. As a Cambridge undergraduate he was approached to be a spy.

Hurd was courted by MI6 and turned down life in the James Bond mould only because ambition got the better of him. He quickly realised that he would receive no public recognition for his work as a spy, and instead joined the Foreign Office before pursuing a political career.

He was approached by spymasters while studying at Trinity College. Hurd discloses in a forthcoming Radio 4 series that when the admiral who tried to recruit him explained that one drawback of a career in the Secret Intelligence Service was that one was never given credit for achievement, he turned him down flat. MI6 agents in the field only ever reach the rank of First Secretary, and that can be frustrating for men with greater ambitions.

The revelation that the familiar patriotic figure strutting the world stage in his trademark loden coat could have been an anonymous character skulking in the shadows comes in Letters from a Diplomat,

a five-part series presented by the former Foreign Secretary and tracing his career.

Those hoping to hear his views on the present Government may be less excited. He has even put on hold plans to write his memoirs.

"More time is needed in order to give events their right proportion and perspective," he says cautiously.

Taking sides
THE BIZARRE debate about the Messiah's political views rumbles on. After Tony Blair suggested that Conservatism was incompatible with Christianity, Harry Greenway, the MP for Ealing North, has climbed into the pulpit to deliver a more forthright sermon: Jesus was a Tory.

DIARY
Fed up with losing strawberries to hungry Chelsea Flower Show visitors — the Queen has been known to help herself from the odd stand — one grower was yesterday planning revenge. "Next year I am going to cover my strawberries in Epsom salts. They won't come back for more then."

Taking sides
Jesus was certainly a Conservative, teaching that every individual

is made in the image of God and therefore sacred and not to be treated as part of "the masses" in the way that socialism dictates, he writes in his local paper, the *Greenford and Northolt Gazette*.

In response he has been given a blast by his bishop. "He has missed the point of so much that Jesus did and taught," says the Rt Rev Graham Dow, Bishop of Willesden. "Britain needs Christianity a hundred times more than it needs Conservatism."

Crimebusters
TONY BLAIR should be wary of trotting out his familiar boast that he is "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" when out on the stump in his Sedgefield constituency. Lizzie Noel, his feisty Tory opponent, has her own hands-on approach to catching criminals.

Travelling through Notting Hill in a mini-cab the other day, she spotted a poor fellow being relieved of his wallet by a mugger. Leaping from the car she tended to the victim and instructed her fiancé, Henry Pitman, a former military man and stepson to Andrew Parker Bowles, to chase the villain.

After some derring-do and hot pursuit over walls and fences, the quarry was cornered by Pitman

federal a jar of Chequers Chutney. Word of this latest contribution to our culinary heritage already has the blue-rinse organisers of Tory fetes in a right pickle.

Chelsea tea

GALES on Sunday nearly brought down the main marquee at the Chelsea Flower Show, but at least the tea ladies of Ealing, west London, benefited from the chill. They received a desperate call from exhibitors of the giant Amazonian water-lily. The lilies were collapsing because their water was too cold, so the tea ladies agreed to lease out their urns to provide hot water for the freezing ponds.

"It was an emergency. We put water-heaters in the pond, and we used bubble-wrap to ensure that the lilies were warm enough," says Barbara Davies of Staplebury Water Gardens. "But it was still too cold, so we needed some hot water."

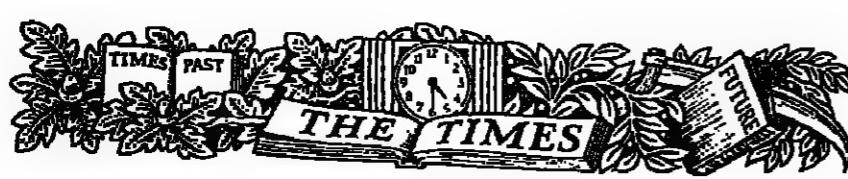
"We ordered taxis to get the tea urns, and we just hope that the water will be warm enough, but things could be as bad as we expect. None of the buds are flowering, and you can understand in this cold weather why they won't."

P-H-S



The delay is due to money on the line

50 من الأصل



DEFAMATION DAY

The Bill of Rights is bigger than any Member's interest

In an important judgment last year, the European Court of Human Rights criticised the record award of £1.5 million in the Lord Aldington Count Tolstoy libel case. While Count Tolstoy's allegations were untrue, the British system of letting juries pluck figures out of the air, without any sensible guidance from a judge, was found to run counter to the free speech provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Since then the Court of Appeal has wisely overturned the rule that judges could not give juries guidance on the level of awards in libel actions. Coupled with Section 8 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, which gives the Court of Appeal the power to reduce or increase a jury award in a libel action, a sensible set of guidelines should now emerge, allowing juries to know roughly what to award if a defendant wrongly accuses someone of being a liar, a thief or a blackmailer.

Today the House of Commons will begin to consider the Lord Chancellor's Defamation Bill. This is aimed at persuading newspapers and television companies to come forward with rapid apologies by offering a defence of "offer of amends". Under its proposals the media company would admit that it made a mistake, apologise and then leave it up to a judge to award a sensible sum in damages.

The Bill has already been much improved during its passage through the Lords. The Lord Chancellor has heard the serious worries of the media over the "offer of amends" procedure if it was going to be left to a judge to dictate where and in what terms a correction and apology should appear. Under new proposals, the judge will instead be able to increase the damages if he is not satisfied that the apology was sufficient and reasonable.

But the Bill still has some defects, most notably the power left with judges to order apologies where an aggrieved party is able to convince a court that the media company has no defence to a claim. This will put the

courts and the media on a collision course. Moreover, if judges are given a new power to order apologies, what is to stop them ordering Count Tolstoy, after a hard fought libel action, to apologise to Lord Aldington, something which he would almost certainly refuse to do? In those circumstances the law would risk ridicule.

But the real defect in the Bill is a late amendment which would allow MPs to waive parliamentary privilege in order to pursue personal libel actions against newspapers or even other MPs who make allegations about their behaviour within the precincts of the House. This amendment, put forward by Lord Hoffman, has an outward attractiveness in that it would appear to allow MPs, such as Neil Hamilton, to clear their names when attacked over issues like "questions for cash". At present they cannot pursue libel actions involving matters within the aegis of the House of Commons because Article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 states that "freedom of speech and debate in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament".

Parliamentary privilege, however, is a collective right of the whole House. An individual MP should not be able to waive it simply in order to deal with trips to Paris, questions in the House or the registration of Members' interests. Even more fundamentally, one MP or a group of MPs should not be able to waive privilege to try to stifle opposition criticism.

As is admitted by Lord Hoffman himself, the amendment will lead to embarrassing situations when one MP decides to waive privilege and sue while another in a similar situation decides not to. On this amendment the Lord Chancellor must listen to the wise advice of Lord Simon of Glaisdale that an amendment such as this, which goes to the heart of our constitution and the Bill of Rights of 1689, should be referred to a committee of both Houses before any further move is made.

KEEP IT CLEAN

The Tories need to be more discerning with donors

There is a nasty smell again in Smith Square. The Conservative Party, whose last four years in government have been marred by accusations of sleaze, is back in the dock, accused of having accepted money from curious Balkan sources and failing to return £365,000, given to the party by Asil Nadir, which accountants contend was stolen.

The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, has promised to investigate and return the cash if he is satisfied that the money is tainted. That is all very well as far as it goes. Unless the Tories show a greater degree of discretion in dealing with donors they risk damaging not only their own cause but the health of our political system.

At the next general election money will matter more to the Conservatives than at any time in recent memory. The days when large companies dispatched a donation to the Conservative Party as regularly as they filed their VAT returns have gone. The threat of nationalisation and punitive taxation from Labour has receded and shareholders are increasingly dubious about the wisdom of seeing their profits handed to politicians on their behalf.

With tired and discredited ministers, shrinking party membership and previously loyal newspapers no longer reliable, the Tories have to rely on expensive advertising and campaigning techniques to get their message across. Worse still, Labour is in a strong position, partly as a result of the growth in membership since Tony Blair's election as leader.

Despite these constraints, the Tories claim to have put their finances on a sufficiently sure footing to fight the next election in the way they wish. Many businessmen who

started companies in the Eighties and benefited from supply side reforms have given generously, prompted by fear of a Labour Government committed to introducing the social chapter. The Tories cannot ensure that every entrepreneur who wishes to give has completely clean hands. Every political party has been embarrassed by the activities of some of its backers. But the Conservatives should be more careful from whom they accept cash, and be readier to return any discredited donation.

When Conservative ministers argue that our political system is freer of graft than most others, they usually provoke a cynical shrug. But they are correct. The United Kingdom has been spared corruption scandals on the scale of those which have undermined democracies as sophisticated as Germany, Spain, France and Belgium. For that reason the Tories should be particularly reluctant to take money from foreign donors.

Accepting cash from countries where political influence is a commodity can all too easily compromise a party. Government policy may not have been influenced by donations. But the Tory Party does itself few favours by fishing in murky pools.

Most dangerously of all, it fuels demand for reforms such as the publication of all donations and the State funding of parties. A law requiring publication of gifts would be a regrettable infringement of the right of the individual. State funding would mean, in effect, nationalising the parties. Political parties should raise their own revenue, not act as yet another drain on the Inland Revenue. For the sake of the State, and its own reputation, the Tory party must work harder to put itself above suspicion.

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

Marble Arch never sleeps but who could sleep in Marble Arch?

After 170 years of uselessness and £100,000 of refurbishment, the Government is at last proposing to do something with Marble Arch. According to Virginia Bottomley's announcement in the Commons yesterday, the forgotten gatekeepers' rooms at the top of this forgotten treasure of national heritage may in future be let as apartments.

Britain has never been as comfortable with arches as more triumphalist nations. Not only do we keep our streets unusually empty of them. But our great historian, Gibbon, derided the Arch of Constantine in Rome, the prototype from which Nash copied his Britannic version, seeing decadence in the way that older monuments were cannibalised for its creation.

Gibbon would have found much decadence and infirmity of purpose in the history of London's Marble Arch. It was first erected as the grand entrance to Buckingham Palace. But, being too narrow for ceremonial uses, it was removed to its present site which until then had been famous only as Tyburn gallows. An equestrian statue of George IV (managing to ride bareback without boots or stirrups) had intended to be set on top of it. This was relocated to its pedestal in Trafalgar Square.

Hence Marble Arch has given its name to the busiest traffic roundabout in London and the station on the Central Line where the line is usually being repaired on

Sundays. Because of the Arch's original function as royal gateway, only senior members of the Royal Family and the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery are allowed to pass through its central arch. But they risk their lives to try. Marble Arch stands in howling isolation as a traffic island for 5,800 vehicles an hour at peak periods. So the tourists who take this heritage trail have to survive the road rage of the traffic before exposing themselves to the fundamentalist rage of Speakers' Corner. The maze of subways beneath the Marble Arch is the most malodorous and misleadingly signed in London.

Two years ago the then National Heritage Secretary, Peter Brooke, held a competition to liberate Marble Arch from traffic chaos and neglect. The winning scheme proposed to turn the triangle between the Arch and Speakers' Corner into a pedestrian way so that people could visit the London landmark and see Nash's sculpture. Traffic was to be diverted down an underpass. The scheme was shelved when it was costed at £21 million, and Westminster City Council decided it would generate more congestion. No arch ever sleeps. But no one in Marble Arch could ever sleep. To turn the hub of a "gyratory system" into a Mayfair apartment is to find a living use for Marble Arch. But who will be able to live there? Only hermits who have lost their marbles already.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Radical reform for forensic testing

From the Director, National Council for Civil Liberties

Sir, The fact that a government science laboratory's equipment responsible for evaluating forensic evidence has been found to be contaminated with traces of explosives reports May 15 (ib; article May 16) is of serious concern. Anxiety, however, is not limited to those convicted post-1989, as has been accepted by the Home Secretary; the whole system for the evaluation of forensic evidence gives concern.

That system is in crisis and has been for decades. This has been proved by the litany of miscarriages of justice which have stemmed from prosecution based upon suspect forensic evidence.

This recent revelation is merely confirmation of the fact that the methods used to accumulate forensic evidence need to be seen to be radically overhauled. More procedural safeguards must be built into the process to protect individuals against the risk of false positive results.

The Home Secretary should therefore not limit the proposed inquiry to those known individuals who may have been convicted on the basis of flawed forensic evidence gathered from the contaminated equipment. Rather, he should take the opportunity to conduct an investigation into the entire forensic examination procedure.

Whilst it is hoped that the proposed inquiry should go some way to addressing the problems arising out of this particular crisis, without a root and branch examination of the entire system with the aim of establishing a high level of quality control, these potential miscarriages of justice arising from dubious forensic evidence are unlikely to be the last.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director,
National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
May 16.

Fulham's new bishop

From the Reverend David H. Hubbard

Sir, Your assumption that the appointment of John Broadhurst as Bishop of Fulham "will enrage the centre and liberal wings of the Church" (report, May 14) is not helpful; and those supporters of the ordination of women who have worked with John Broadhurst will surely recognise his undoubted leadership ability, and will want to congratulate him and pray for his future episcopal ministry in this diocese.

It is true that we may not be able to work and worship in union in London, but at least we can aim at harmony, a goal that will be the more easily reached if the London diocesan ark of salvation is not rocked by forces without.

I write as one who has been described in this area as a "notorious" supporter of the ordination of women.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. HUBBARD,
All Saints Vicarage,
Church Road, Highgate, N6.
May 14.

Chinese tribes

From Mr Alastair D. Harper

Sir, There is nothing surprising in remains of a Caucasian type of people coming to light in the Tarim Basin, in the Xinjiang autonomous region of north-west China (report, May 10).

This geographical area, settled exclusively by mongoloid people today, was historically a homeland and a point of diffusion for Caucasian tribes, which the Chinese and the Tartars called Wu Sun or Hs Ung Nu. Chinese annals describe them as "all with red hair, grey eyes, and fair skin". Herodotus and Aeschylus report similarly on the tribes which also bear the names of Tokhari, Kushans, Ephthalites and Sakae.

Though nothing remains of these people in the living strains of the Chinese, the vestigial evidence recently disinterred is rightly perceived as of great anthropological importance. It is significant that in the still scarcely accessible mountains of east Afghanistan, a culturally archaic people, formerly known as Kafiri and now as Nuristanis, persist. Until the 1990s they practised an ancient Indo-European religion, from which they were forcibly converted to Islam. In their foggy hinterland many of them remain blond.

In this region of early racial maelstrom it is interesting to remember that the Tocharian language, which persisted for a considerable time north of the Himalayas and eastward, was a purely Caucasian tongue more closely related to the western Indo-European speech than to Indo-Iranian.

It will not be a surprise if many of the presumptions in the field of ethnography are soon to be shaken by the discovery of those skeletons in this ancient cupboard of history.

Yours etc.
ALASTAIR D. HARPER,
House of Gask,
Lathalmond, by Dunfermline, Fife.
May 21.

Future of science at British Library

From Mr Richard Gallafent

Sir, Your report concerning the National Audit Office report on the British Library ("Whitewash" ib; costs "run out of control at British Library", May 15; ib; article May 16) is of serious concern. Anxiety, however, is not limited to those previously aware of the likely excess of demand over capacity on the science reading room as soon as the building is finally opened.

The building will no doubt be regarded in good time as a great national asset, but it can now be seen to be too small. The science section of the library is a vital resource for British industry. If information cannot be found or is more difficult to find in the new building, the loss to British industry will be profound.

One possible way of alleviating the space problem at St Pancras is to re-examine whether it should be the home both for the sciences and the humanities. The origin of the British Library's science holdings is the old Patent Office Library, an unrivalled collection of material built up on the solid foundation laid by a Victorian, Benjamin Woodford, and carefully improved and developed by the Patent Office and latterly by the British Library itself.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GALLAFENT
(Member, British Library Science Reference and Information Service Advisory Committee; Chairman, Libraries Liaison Committee, The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, Staple Inn Buildings, High Holborn, WC1. May 18.

Charitable bequests

From Mr David Hobman

Sir, It is not at all surprising that the Charities Aid Foundation's report on charitable giving has recorded a 20 per cent drop in bequests to educational organisations (details, May 13). No doubt the same thing has happened to many other less fashionable causes outside the magic circle.

Many charities prospered in the 1970s and early 1980s from a massive increase in bequests derived from the estates of those who had no idea of their personal assets, enshrined in the inflated value of their home.

As a result charities, which were often the residual beneficiaries, often ended up with a great deal more than named relatives who had been left quite small specific sums, based on assumptions about values made many years before, when the wills were written.

As the then director of a charity devoted to the care of elderly people, I

naturally welcomed this valuable addition to our resources. At the same time, it was disconcerting to think that many elderly widows, who had probably been excluded from discussion about their financial affairs during their husbands' lifetimes, must often have endured unnecessary discomfort, with no one to advise them about better ways of using their capital for their own benefit.

Now, perhaps the question won't arise for different reasons. The insurance corporations and their share-holders will be the winners who take nearly all, as the Government induces us to take our policies to cover nursing home fees for elderly people and we bid a sad farewell to the welfare society (letters, May 14).

Yours etc.
DAVID HOBMAN
(Director, Age Concern England, 1971-87, Robbinswood, George's Lane, Storrington, West Sussex. May 14.

procedures. Child witnesses can have a demonstration of the closed-circuit TV link. Any witness can be accompanied into the courtroom.

Most witness services can provide comfortable rooms in the court building, with tea and coffee, where witnesses can wait to be called. We also liaise with criminal justice agencies on their behalf.

This service will not produce a "superwitness" but will encourage a relaxed one with information and support at hand — and it is free.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH PITTER,
Co-ordinator,
Bristol Crown Court Witness Service,
The Law Courts,
Small Street, Bristol.
May 16.

Ten Tors trek

From the Headmaster of Clifton College

Sir, Amid all the reports today of the Ten Tors trek, I hope there will be praise and thanks given to the Army for the work they did to ensure that the young people were safe.

Those of my own pupils whose trek was curtailed are disappointed, but they have learnt an enormous amount and they are extremely grateful to all who took part in organising the evacuation.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MONROE,
Headmaster,
Clifton College,
32 College Road, Bristol.
May 20.

Water disconnections

From Mr Bryan Hart

Sir, Ms Barbara Murphy, of Thames Water (letter, May 18), notes that the company had a disconnection rate of four per 10,000 households, "which is close to the national average of three households per 10,000".

Maybe, but it would seem to be equally true to say the disconnection rate for Thames Water was one third higher than the national average.

I suppose it all depends on whether one is doing the disconnecting or being disconnected.

Yours sincerely,
BRYAN HART,
50 Birchwood Drive,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
May 20.

me. His response to heavy fire was not to cover it but remain busy with his camera.

He helped me produce the first copy of *Tripoli Times* before returning to Geoffrey Keating for the final battles in North Africa. He then joined the forces in Europe.

He also asserts, in my view wrongly, that John always considered himself first a painter rather than a photographer.

On the rare occasions when John reminisced about his time as an army photographer and photographic unit where he came under the command of Geoffrey Keating, a legend amongst army photographers, who insisted they should share the dangers of battle with the soldier.

As Field Marshal Montgomery's press officer and editor of *Eighth Army News*, I was determined to get into Tripoli with the advance troops to secure the printing presses from looting and John volunteered to come with me.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM GOFF,
Beech House,
Saxlingham Nethergate,
Norwich, Norfolk.

From Dr Georges Ware

Sir, Can I assure Peter Knight that I did not even find shorts, trunks and vests any better than my original togs, bin-bags and winter warmers.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGES WARE,
85 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol.

May 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 20 The Queen, Patron, Royal Horticultural Society, and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening visited the Chelsea Flower Show in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

His Royal Highness, Honorary Member, the Rotary Club of London, this afternoon presented the Leonardo da Vinci Award 1996 at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel, Grenadier Guards, this evening attended the First Guards Club Dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2.

BUICKINGHAM PALACE

May 20 The Prince Edward, this evening attended the final of the Real Tennis Laundry, Petanque Masters Championship at the Queen's Club, London W14.

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

May 20 The Princess Royal, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, this morning attended Holy Communion at the Assembly Hall.

Her Royal Highness afterwards attended a business session of the General Assembly.

The Princess Royal later visited Cunningham House, Cowgate, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire (the Lord Goldie).

The Princess Royal later visited Queen Mary House, Queen Mary Avenue, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally), the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Lanside Church, Ledard Street, Glasgow.

The Princess Royal subsequently

visited the Mallard, Springfield, Glasgow.

Her Royal Highness this evening gave a dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 20 The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Mr John James).

His Royal Highness, Vice-Admiral, The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this evening gave a Dinner to thank major supporters of the Trust's work with disadvantaged young people.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 20 The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Her Royal Highness launched the new role "Norwich Cathedral", commemorating the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the Cathedral and Diocese.

May 20 The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a dinner to celebrate Lord Marmion's 80th Birthday at the Royal Hospital, London EC1.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Her Royal Highness, President of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy subsequently attended the Gala Preview of the Chelsea Flower Show.

DESPITE a cold late spring with poor light, Chelsea Flower Show exhibitors have managed to stage most of the favourite summer flowers that visitors expect to see in the great marquee, albeit on a smaller scale in some instances.

There is a swath of statuary delphiniums from traditional blue to the latest pink shades from Blackmore & Langdon, of Pensford, Bristol; the New Generation lupins from Woodfield Brothers, of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, including the new pink and white "Jack Wood" and champagne-coloured "Rosalind Wood"; and the traditional display of Iceland poppies from Home Meadows Nursery, of Marlesham, Suffolk, creating a splash of sunshine with their bright yellow and orange flowers.

S & N Brackley, of Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, have just about managed to stage a display of sweet peas, including the new "Elegance" with brilliant white, strongly fragrant flowers. With some extra heat to force them along, Ken Muire, of Weoley Heath, Essex, has ripened enough strawberries to create his usual Chelsea display. A new cultivar is included this year—"Symphony", said to be resistant to vine weevil.

The show, which opens today, is strong on roses as usual and many new cultivars are making their debut. But Cants, of Colchester, Essex, are concentrating on the small patio roses which are currently among the top-selling kinds, including cultivars trained as standards, such as bright yellow "Ray of Sunshine".

Plants for hanging baskets are also in vogue and a range of well-known and unusual kinds is being shown by Cook's Garden Centre, of Stourport-on-Severn, Hereford and Worcester. Including new small-flowered petunias "Million Bells Pink" and "Million Bells Purple".

Among his display of asteroemias, Peter J. Smith, of Ashton, West

Sussex, is showing the first pure white cultivar—"HRH Princess Alexandra".

Some of the big nurseries have staged exhibits with strong themes this year. Hillier Nurseries, of Ampfield, Hampshire, have created a colour co-ordinated garden honouring and inspired by famous gardeners Gertrude Jekyll, Vita Sackville-West, Graham Stuart Thomas and Sir Harold Hillier. The exhibits includes a wealth of hardy plants, trees, shrubs and roses including the New English rose and the honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) "Graham Thomas".

Nottcutt Garden Centres, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, have staged a display of drought-tolerant plants including the new purple-leaved shrub, *Physocarpus opulifolius* "Diabolo", and even a hosta which will flower in full sun. *H. plantaginea* "White Fairy".

The Alpine Garden Society, of Pershore, Hereford and Worcester, and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh are showing Chinese alpine plants introduced into Britain, displayed in an authentic landscape of screes and streams. The collection includes plants raised from seed collected on the AGS expedition to Szechuan and Yunnan in 1994, including the rare, red-flowered *Meconopsis paniculata*.

Plants associated with the late plantwoman and author Margery Fish and her East Lambrook, Somerset, garden (currently being restored), are being shown by the Kent Group of the Hardy Plant Society. The design reflects the various areas of her garden and includes such well-known plants as *Euphorbia characias wulfenii*, "Lambrook Gold" and *Artemisia absinthium* "Lambrook Silver".

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Plants associated with the late plantwoman and author Margery Fish and her East Lambrook, Somerset, garden (currently being restored), are being shown by the Kent Group of the Hardy Plant Society. The design reflects the various areas of her garden and includes such well-known plants as *Euphorbia characias wulfenii*, "Lambrook Gold" and *Artemisia absinthium* "Lambrook Silver".

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Streets, including some giant kinds with large globular flower heads in shades of mauve such as "Purple Sensation", "Gladiolus" and "Rien Poerrier".

Ferns are enjoying renewed popularity and are much in evidence at Chelsea. Tree ferns from Australia and New Zealand are being featured by Rickard's Hardy Ferns of Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester, as well as dryopteris ferns with newly emerged fresh green fronds.

Something different at this year's show is a range of front gardens designed and created by some of our well-known garden centres.

There are plenty of displays of tropical and other exotic plants. Native Australian plants, all grown for cutting, are being shown by The Flowers and Gardens of Melbourne, Victoria, and include the fuzzy flowers of kangaroo paws (anigozanthos), and the fat brush-like fiery coloured banksias.

The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley, Surrey, has staged a large display of caladiums. South American foliage plants with large multi-coloured leaves plus related plants such as Swiss cheese plants (monstera) and philodendrons. This is probably the largest collection of caladiums in the UK.

Tropical Rain Forest of Leeds, West Yorkshire, have created a flooded-forest setting for their collection of colourful bromeliads (South American pineapple relatives) mounted on tree branches. A new plant is being featured, the flame-coloured *Guzmania Indiana*.

The private view for RHS members is today and tomorrow. The show, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is open to the public on Thursday from 8am to 8pm and Friday from 9am to 8pm. Admission by ticket only, bought in advance (no tickets at gates). The 24-hour show information line 0171 528 1744.

Dinners

HM Lord High Commissioner
The Princess Royal, Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, gave a dinner last night at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Among those present were

Lord and Lady Michael Shearman, Bishop Dr Michael Shearman, Mr and Mrs John Cameron, Mr and Mrs Tom Farmer, Mr and Mrs Glyn Jones, Mr Alan Jones, Mr Kiel McAlister, Mr and Mrs John Paterson and Mrs and Mrs Brian Souter.

Carlton Club

Sir Edward Heath, KC, MP, was guest of honour at a dinner held last night at the Carlton Club in recognition of his achievement on May 17, in breaking the record, previously held by Lloyd George, with 22 years and 73 days, as the former Prime Minister with the longest subsequent service in the House of Commons.

Lord Wakeham, chairman, presided.

Royal Society of St George

Mrs Pauline Halliday, Chairman of the Council of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George, accompanied by Mr Peter Halliday, president at the installation dinner held last night at the City Livery Club. Sir Gordon Shattock and Mr Deputy Bernard Morgan, branch president, also spoke.

The Athenaeum

Emeritus Professor Neil Kessel was a speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Mr Michael Shaw was in the chair.

Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Sir Michael Spierer, Chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, was the host at a dinner held at the House of Commons after Professor Ken Pounds, Chief Executive of the Particle Physics and Accelerator Research Council, and Dr W.S. Barde had given addresses at a meeting of the committee. Among others present were Lord Phillips FRS, Lord Shepherd SJ, Sir Martin Rees, FRS, Professor Malcolm Longstaff, FRS, Dr David Phillips, FRS, Dr David Gray, MP, and Dr Michael Clark, MP.

Mr J.C. Pike

and Miss L.M. Fein

The engagement is announced between Julian Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Gordon-Brown, of Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Harriet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Maitland, of Hammington, Hampshire.

Mr S. King

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The engagement is announced between Stephen, second son of the Revd M.C. and Mrs J.B. King, of Cavston, Norfolk, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs G.C. Steele of Sandhurst, Berkshire.

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OBITUARIES

JON PERTWEE, actor, died yesterday aged 76. He was born on July 7, 1919.

JON PERTWEE was the third actor to play the title role in *Dr Who* for television. He took over from Patrick Troughton in the seventh season of the series in 1970, and remained with it for five years, before cosmetically "regenerating", before the eyes of horrified children, into a new Doctor played by Tom Baker.

Pertwee's five-year stint as the Doctor encompassed some radical changes to the BBC children's programme. Instead of the Tardis (an acronym for Time and Relative Dimensions in Space), Unit HQ became the Doctor's new base of operations, and a team of Unit personnel, led by Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, joined the Doctor's regular team of daring female companions. Despite the new family, the onus for making the programme work rested as firmly as ever on the shoulders of the Doctor. Pertwee took a risk on playing him as a camp, charismatic scientist, resplendently dressed for time travel in a velvet smoking jacket, ruffled shirt and red satin lined cape.

Although Pertwee was quick to acknowledge the blessing which *Dr Who* and later TV's *Worzel Gummidge* had bestowed upon his career, he had mixed feelings about being forever manacled, in the public imagination, to children's television. He had also done excellent work in radio, theatre, vaudeville, cabaret. He had appeared in 120 films and was doing an energetic one-man show in his mid-seventies. But while he had enjoyed a comfortable, profitable career, and was rarely out of work, there was also something rather chaotic about his curriculum vitae. It lacked the sort of single-minded focus which propels less talented individuals to greater heights.

John Deven Roland Pertwee was born into a family so closely linked with the stage that a career in anything but showbusiness would have been considered eccentric. Four doughty great aunts — the Moore sisters — were actresses. His father Roland was a playwright and a novelist, and had been a friend of Gerald du Maurier, the author of *Trilby*. Pertwee had served tea to Laurence Olivier by the time he was in his teens. But the inevitability of his career, he felt later on, may have told against him: "Because it was the family business I never had to struggle to join it — I took it for granted, which is maybe why I've never taken it seriously enough."

Pertwee was educated at Sherborne and then joined RADA. During the 1930s he went through the traditional learning school of repertory theatre, interspersed with odd jobs. On commercial radio, he began to make a name for himself with his chameleon-



like ability to hop from one accent and dialect to another at great speed.

During the war he served in the RNVR as an officer. He was appointed to HMS Hood from which he was extremely fortunate to be returned to shore, along with 16 others, shortly after that vessel was sunk by the Bismarck — going down in nine seconds. He ended his service career with the broadcasting section of the Navy, where he met Eric Barker. This led, after the war, to work on Barker's *Waterlogged Spa* and for *The New Lark*, where Pertwee played an enormous range of characters: Commander High-Price, Robin Fly, the Bugler from Plymouth Barracks, and Dai, the Welsh storyteller, among others. He played Mr Bupp for Jimmy Jewel and Ben Warriss in *Up the Pole*. He enjoyed the camaraderie of working in the sort of small group which radio entitled.

Those in the business were beginning to take notice of Pertwee, although they were not quite sure what to make of him at first — potentially nearly as versatile as Jack Palance" was one assessment in 1948. Someone else noted that he looked rather too like Danny Kaye for his own good, and that this may be why he himself "under a mass of crepe hair". The general consensus was that he should concentrate on one form of acting: radio, variety or film, but Pertwee easily ignored this. He began his film career in the late 1930s, and continued through the 1950s juggling television, radio work and summer shows. He took small parts in a host of *Carry On* films.

In the early 1960s he had a particular success at the Strand Theatre in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, playing with Frankie Howerd. He had landed a part in the show almost by accident. When auditions were announced, Pertwee was touring in a revue called *See You Inside* (an unfortunate title as very few people were ever seen inside the theatre during a performance). Having made an excuse about a dental appointment, he raced to the auditions in London, only to find that half the cast of *See You Inside* had had the same idea, and were already there when he arrived.

He was, indeed, one of the comparatively few of the Beaverbrook courtiers who rarely held back from warning him

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In 1969 came the decisive moment when Pertwee was asked to take over as Dr Who. The longest-running children's drama had begun life in November 1963. The first episode was about a young girl whose curiously first-hand understanding of history astonished her teachers at school. They follow her into what appears to be an ordinary police telephone box (in fact the Tardis), and there meet her eccentric grandfather, Dr Who, who is in fact a time traveller. Dr Who was played first by William Hartnell, and then by Patrick Troughton, both with great success. However, in a survey of Doctors past and present over the past three decades, the Pertwee and Tom Baker interpretations are considered by many to be the finest.

Pertwee's five seasons with the show introduced such new story lines and characters as the Master — a renegade Time Lord, the dramatic equivalent of Bond's Blofeld, who remained with the show after Pertwee left it. Other strong episodes included encounters with Solomon mutants, and, of course, the Daleks.

Pertwee left the show at the end of

the eleventh season, keen to get back to the excitement of live performance. He spent a few years in the West End with musicals like *Irene*. Then in 1979 he returned to the small screen, this time with Southern Television, in a Sunday evening children's programme written by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall. *Worzel Gummidge*, about a tender-hearted, walking, talking scarecrow, had started life as a children's book in the 1930s and then enjoyed a great success on *Children's Hour* on the radio. Pertwee played the title role in four successive television seasons, and won impressive viewing figures from an army of five-year-olds. However, while the show certainly consolidated his appeal with very young children, it could never hope to have the same sort of mass appeal as his role as Dr Who.

In the end, Pertwee was philosophical about having become a national institution as the Doctor. He recently did a radio series for the BBC, *The Ghost in Space*, for which he once more brushed down his old black cape, and he spoke to many conventions of fans. For the last two years he toured Britain with his one-man show, *Who is Jon Pertwee?*, a biographical overview of his career which drew heavily on the experience of playing the Doctor.

He was determined to carry on working and appeared as fit and enthusiastic as ever, even under the rigours of the Christmas pantomime season. There was no illness, and his death came unexpectedly, while he was on tour in America.

Jon Pertwee married the actress Jean Marsh in 1955. That marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife, Ingeborg, a novelist, and by their son and daughter.

SIMON WEINSTOCK

SIMON WEINSTOCK, a director of GEC since 1987, died from cancer on May 18 aged 44. He was born on February 24, 1952.

MOST of the things Simon Weinstock did in his life he did with his father. Lord Weinstock, the managing director of General Electric Company. Both were keen music lovers and opera-goers, and they shared a passion for horse racing together owning and breeding a string of first-class horses.

They also increasingly co-operated in their professional lives. After a spell as a merchant banker, Weinstock followed his father, in 1963, to GEC where he later became a director.

It was at the racecourse that

Weinstock was happiest and gained the most success in his joint ventures with his father.

The pair were involved in racing for more than twenty years and shared the horses which ran under the Weinstock name. Their latest success came when Election Day was the first to cross the line in the Aston Park Stakes at Newbury last Saturday.

Simon Andrew Weinstock's interest in horses, inspired by his father, was already evident during his school days at Winchester College. At Winchester,

not known for its links to horse racing, he stood out as one of the few pupils with a real understanding of horses.

Soon he came to the attention of the one or two older boys who shared his interest and, among these, formed a lifelong friendship with Lord Huntingdon.

Huntingdon went on to train for the Weinstocks when he took over the reins at West Isley seven years ago. "His father was always happy to leave his racing interests in his son's hands," Huntingdon recalled, "and Simon obviously made a very good job of it." But, despite all their domestic success, it was a long-held ambition of the family to win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. They had a series of near-misses there and were placed with four of their horses.

Weinstock read Classics at Magdalen College, Oxford, after which he went to work with S.G. Warburg as an investment banker. While working at Warburg's he ad-



vised the Government on the rescheduling of debt and later in investment matters, and held a number of management positions. He joined GEC, one of Britain's largest industrial companies, in 1983, and by 1987 had been made commercial director.

Weinstock's passion for opera was so strong that he would plan his family holidays specifically to be near the great European opera houses.

He often visited the Salzburg festival and La Scala, Milan, with his father.

In his character he was almost a reverse mirror image of his father. He was shy and softly spoken; some thought his shyness was not helped by working for his extrovert father. The longer he was at GEC, however, the more confident he became and, as his responsibilities grew, he was thought of less and less as the chairman's son.

All that changed again when GEC started to look for a new chairman last year. Weinstock had never denied that he would like to follow in his father's footsteps, and his father evidently felt the same as he announced his plans for retirement. But influential voices in the City warned against what they termed "running companies along dynastic lines". After some delay George Simpson, chief executive of Lucas Industries, was appointed.

In 1979 Weinstock married Laura Legh, whose late father Sir Francis was Prince Margaret's treasurer. She survives him, as do their three daughters.

GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

George Malcolm Thomson, OBE, author, aide to Lord Beaverbrook and later chief leader writer for the *Daily Express*, died yesterday aged 96. He was born on August 2, 1899.

OF ALL the first Lord Beaverbrook's well-sung roll of "backroom boys", the chief — and most esteemed — was George Malcolm Thomson, who came south to join the Beaverbrook entourage in 1931.

Thomson, quiet, shrewd, erudite, politically astute and

gifted with an acute sense of humour, served Beaverbrook for 33 years with dedication and skill. Under a deceptively unassuming exterior he maintained an unshakeable self-reliance and, during Beaverbrook's greatest days as Minister of Aircraft Production (from May 1940 to May 1941), wielded a unique influence over his mercurial master — whom he regarded with a quizzical, but never uncritical, affection.

He was, indeed, one of the comparatively few of the Beaverbrook courtiers who rarely held back from warning him

of impulsive decisions when they were obviously unwise. Because Beaverbrook held him in such regard, more often than not he would, under loud protest, accept Thomson's persuasively put advice.

George Malcolm Thomson, a Scot through and through, was born in Leith, the eldest son of Charles Thomson and his wife Mary (née Eason). He was educated at Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh, whence he went on to Edinburgh University before beginning his journalistic career with *The Londoner's Diary* in the *Evening Standard* and short, pithy

pieces for the "Cross-Bench" column in the *Sunday Express*, he assimilated the staccato Beaverbrook style and was switched to specialise for Beaverbrook on economic policy and political affairs, drafting many of Beaverbrook's own articles as a pliable "ghost".

When on May 14, 1940, Churchill appointed Beaverbrook to be the first Minister of Aircraft Production, with his office first at Stormont House, St James's, before moving to Millbank, Thomson went with him as his principal private secretary and confidant: the most trusted of his small personal staff, alongside his personal secretary David Farrer and his butler Albert Nockolds.

Thomson was thus at Beaverbrook's elbow throughout the whirlwind year at the Ministry of Aircraft Production and moved with him, in June 1941, to the Ministry of Supply at Shell Mex House in the Strand. Later in 1941 he accompanied Beaverbrook on his mission to Stalin in Moscow, of which his personal account, among the Beaverbrook papers, is not only absorbing but also high entertainment. In February 1942 Thomson was with Beaverbrook during his brief time in the offices of the War Cabinet as Minister of Production.

Between March and October 1942, Thomson returned to the glass and chrome building of the *Daily Express* in Fleet Street while spending much time with Lord Beaverbrook at Gwydyr House in Whitehall when Beaverbrook returned to office in the War Cabinet as Lord Privy Seal, charged with preparations for postwar air transport. The new minister was particularly concerned with the deliberations of the Brabazon committee on future British civil transport aircraft and with negotiations with the State Department in Washington for an international air transport conference, eventually held in Chicago in November and December 1944.

Thomson was in the thick of it, as Beaverbrook's principal secretary on all but aviation affairs, these latter being delegated to Peter Masefield, brought in from liaison work between the RAF and the United States 8th Air Force. There were further visits to Washington and intensive negotiations which led to the Chicago conference and, eventually, to the Anglo-American

gossip for about half-an-hour and then produce his front-page pocket cartoon (of which Thomson had normally been the catalyst). They were the closest of friends, frequently meeting at the Garrick Club, of which they were both highly popular members.

Thomson continued to serve the Beaverbrook organisation as one of its elder statesmen until his retirement in 1970. He was held in high esteem by Lord Beaverbrook right up to the time of the latter's death in 1964. During this time not only did Thomson spend many days with "the Lord" at Cherkley in Surrey but also at his villa, *La Cappuccina*, at Cap d'Al in the South of France where, as he described it, he was treated to "highly individual surveys of the pageant of British political history from 1911 to 1945".

Through all this time Thomson wrote some 20 books, most of them well-researched biographies and political commentaries. They included notably *The Crime of Mary Stuart* (1967), *The First Churchill*, *John Duke of Marlborough* (1979) and *The Prime Ministers* (1980). He was appointed OBE in 1990.

George Malcolm Thomson was married twice: to Elsa Ellefsen of Tønsberg, Norway, who died in 1957, and then in 1963 to Diana Van Cordinet Robertson. She survives him, along with the son and daughter of his first marriage.

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FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

IT IS indeed a dull, apathetic election few viewers would be likely to enjoy either after the last night's Labour Party election round-up on television. There was no lack of punch in the arguments of Mr. Herbert Morrison or Mr. Hugh Gaitskell and least of all in the full-blooded exchange of Mr. James Callaghan, who issued a direct challenge to the Prime Minister.

The presence of Lady Megan Lloyd George, even if she did not get in all she evidently wanted to say, gave more than a touch of sparkle to the proceedings. They all had a great deal to say. Sometimes they撞ed on each other's toes. Poor Mr. Williams Pickles had a hard struggle to get all in his questions and sometimes had to stem the flow of eloquence.

His job was to confront the politicians with what, according to the Press, was in people's minds and more interesting still to get answers to Conservative propaganda. But he got only a short way down his pile of papers. Mr. Herbert Morrison, in a neat bow tie and dark suit, brought a highly serious statesmanlike touch to the proceedings and was particularly direct on the problem of strikes. Mr. Callaghan was positively explosive in his denunciations of the "Tories". On pensions, for instance, he denounced them as

ON THIS DAY

May 21, 1955

IT sounds as though there was not a dull moment in this Labour Party television election broadcast. Mr. Callaghan was clearly in a pugnacious mood.

out and Mr. Pickles a little breathlessly asked a pertinent question about Conservative estimates of the cost of putting Labour's social service programme into effect. He had a swift glimpse of Mr. Morrison rubbing his hands as Mr. Callaghan dealt with that one. He seemed to have a number of points in mind and multiplied it by 10. He admitted freely that some items would cost money, for instance the speeding up of the repayment of post-war credits and such items as education and National Assistance scales.

With his eye on the clock Mr. Pickles swiftly asked if the Labour Party did not expect to put up any taxes. Mr. Gaitskell saw no reason why they should put up taxes and hoped there would be some margin to enable them to reduce taxes on lower incomes.

One or twice Lady Megan in the flood of oratory had little luck with her attempts to chip in, though she contributed some lively asides. She was permitted to do the is and cross the ts of Mr. Morrison on public ownership and she seemed full of admiration for her friend Herbert's summing up. Mr. Pickles had to come down heavily on the others in order that Mr. Morrison should have his chance to put this over. His theme was that John Bull, the British people's government and Parliament must have a big voice in the use to be made of the nation's capital assets. His last word was a claim for his party's superior capacity to handle the problems of peace, disarmament and "this beastly bomb".

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OVER THE BANK HOLIDAY THE FOLLOWING DEADLINE WILL APPLY:

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 21 1996

LAW 21

Court of Appeal

Savings urged by more use of admissions**Regina v Jackson**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Holland and Judge Stephens, QC.

[Reasons May 10]

Although an expert witness was not strictly speaking permitted to give an opinion in court based on scientific tests run by experts unless all those assistants were called upon to give supporting evidence in court, savings of time and money could be made by the maximum use of the facility to present such evidence in written form or, even more simply, by the use of admissions.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, had given reserved reasons for dismissing on May 7 an appeal by Terry Paul Jackson against his conviction in September 1995 at Southwark Crown Court (Mr Recorder Jackson and a jury) of assault occasioning actual bodily harm for which he was sentenced to 18 months' detention in a young offender institution.

Miss Amanda Tedore, advised by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant: Mr Peter McGrail for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HOLLAND, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant and two other youths, Paul Hannington and John Caffrey, were charged with attacking Graham Taylor who was punched and kicked until he lost consciousness. Caffrey and the appellants were convicted but Hannington was acquitted by direction of the judge. Caffrey had not applied for leave to appeal.

Blood stains were found on the appellant's shoes and the lower edge of his jeans. A forensic scientist, Mr Martin Whitaker, gave evidence that by reference to STR typing, a form of DNA analysis, there was "strong evidence to support the assertion that Taylor's blood was on the appellant's jeans" but the distribution of the blood ... provided no

evidence to assist in assessing whether the appellant kicked Taylor".

Mr Whitaker provided similar evidence with respect to blood found on Caffrey's trousers. The appellant admitted he had approached Mr Taylor while he was being attacked, so acquiring the blood on his trousers, but that that was with a view to stopping the attack.

The problem facing the appeal arose thus: for the purposes of cross-examination, witness statements, including that of Mr Whitaker, were served on the defendants. Mr Whitaker stated that he had been assisted by six other laboratory staff in the STR typing and that a full record of the work carried out could be prepared from the other staff involved provided sufficient notice was given.

There was no reaction from the defendants' advisers with respect to that statement. In opening, prosecuting counsel made use of the content of Mr Whitaker's statement without any objection.

Before the close of the prosecution there was no request by the Crown to the defendants to make admissions as to fact pursuant to section 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

None of the submissions of "narrative" made on behalf of the three defendants was based on Mr Whitaker's professed interpretation of that which had not been directly proved.

It was not until after Jackson had given evidence that counsel for Caffrey, Mr C. J. Hart, drew the attention of other counsel and then the court to the lack of evidence as to which that Mr Whitaker had interpreted and cited a decision of the court *R v Akadam* (1983) 1 Cr App R 76, the headnote of which at [1983] 76 Cr App R 48 read: "Where an expert witness relies on the existence or non-existence of some fact which is basic to the question on which he is asked to express his opinion, that fact must

be proved by admissible evidence..."

"Further, where the existence or non-existence of some fact is in issue a report made by an expert who is not called as a witness is not admissible as evidence of that fact merely by the production of the report, even though it was made by him."

As Mr Hart submitted to the judge, Mr Whitaker had expressly relied on the existence of facts which had not been proved and it followed that there was then no evidential foundation for his opinion. Miss Tedore adopted that view.

The Crown then made a belated application to provide the necessary evidence by serving statements as additional evidence and then calling the witnesses.

By way of a convincingly thorough ruling the judge ruled in favour of the Crown. He called for one of the witnesses from the examination schedule, recalled Mr Whitaker and secured the admission of a set of documents with the aid of another careful ruling from the judge. The trial proceeded normally thereafter in verdict.

Their Lordships then made the following observations about that sequence of events:

"Whereas individually they had not previously encountered a statement from an expert containing a paragraph similar to that cited, their Lordships believed that the device was not uncommon.

Preparation of statements by everyone named in the examination schedules might be time-consuming and therefore costly. Given that more often than not such statements once served did not give rise to factual issues, the situation here, and were either read or made the foundation for an admission, it was tempting in the interests of the public purse not to put preparation in train unless and until the defence flagged up an issue.

Their Lordships made no com-

ment about that practice not having received submissions about it, but did comment on the consequences of its adoption as follows:

"1. Mr Whitaker's statement was finally flawed because the primary facts upon which his opinion was based were not proved by him; he had no personal knowledge of such and his expertise could not extend to establishing their existence.

2. It was for the Crown to identify and fill the evidential gap. Had the point been identified at the appropriate time, that is on a first reading of Mr Whitaker's report, perhaps ways of saving costs and time could have been explored.

The *Report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice* 1993 (Cmd 2263) raised the same concern in paragraph 78 of Chapter 9: "It seems to us that this rule fails to ensure that expert witnesses giving hearsay evidence in badly in need of change and we recommend that it be considered by the Law Commission."

"Meanwhile, although the defence must have the right to examine the assistance of expert witnesses if so it chooses, we look to the courts and to the parties to make maximum use of the facility to present the evidence of assistants in written form until such time as the law is changed. Any unreasonable exploitation of the system should be met by sanctions against the counsel concerned if he or she is found to be responsible."

That passage was cited in full in *Consultation Paper of the Law Commission, No. 138 on Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Hearsay and Related Topics* (1995, p20).

Their Lordships drew attention to the scope for some alternative cost and time saving approach, encouraged by the use of admissions and by perusal of section 81 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the Crown Court (Advance Notice of Expert

Evidence) Rules [SI 1987 No 76 (L2)] and sections 30 and 31 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

As Mr McGrail had pointed out, a plea and directions hearing offered an excellent opportunity for any such problem to be identified and resolved.

3 Granted that the Court of Appeal was in a position to review the case with the advantages of hindsight and experience, their Lordships could not be other than critical.

Not only did all counsel fail to identify the evidential gap until very late in the day. Once the point had emerged it was thereafter dealt with over two days without obvious regard for costs, for time or for panache for the respective the judge; all this when this appellant was admitting contact with the victim's blood and when Caffrey's denial of such contact had given rise to an earlier challenge of the date on which Mr Whitaker had arrived.

If inexplicably accounted for much of the foregoing, their Lordships hoped that this case and these comments would serve rapidly to supplement such.

The evidential gap could have been simply dealt with by the use of admissions. Indeed if the defence had been minded to refuse to make such, that refusal would have triggered a helpful inquiry into what issues were real so as to command the subsequent attention of the court and the jury.

The grounds of appeal criticised the judge's exercise of his discretion to allow the Crown to broadly to close the evidential gap by adducing evidence after the close of the prosecution case but their Lordships could not fault his exceptionally careful exposition properly based as it was upon the guidance in *R v Francis* ([1990] 1 Cr App R 264).

The court had no hesitation in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Victoria.

In view of the findings of the special commissioner, accepting that the taxpayer's sole purpose in incurring the expense was to save his business, although incidentally also saving his reputation, it was accepted that the taxpayer had suffered hurdles (i) and (ii).

However, for the expenditure to qualify as deductible it had to be wholly and exclusively incurred for the purpose of enabling the trader to carry on and earn profits, for example, if there was some other extraneous purpose, it was not deductible; and

(iii) whether the disbursement was sufficiently connected with the trade.

The judge dismissed a cross-appeal by the taxpayer against the commissioner's determination that the expenditure on paying fines of £20,246 incurred by the taxpayer, Brian Stephen Sheppard, on legal fees was deductible under Case I of Schedule D.

The judge dismissed a cross-appeal by the taxpayer against the commissioner's determination that the expenditure on paying fines of £20,246 was not deductible.

The taxpayer was the sole proprietor of his stockbroking business. In 1986 the Stock Exchange Council's disciplinary committee found that he had committed various acts of dishonesty, gross misconduct and ordinary misconduct but had not been suspended.

The critical consideration was the degree of connection between the expenditure and the profit-making trade activity. It was necessary that the expenditure was an incident or cost of carrying on the trade.

The cost of bringing or defending legal proceedings and of paying damages or a sum in settlement of a claim, as a trading or commercial cost, might be deductible.

If the risk of litigation was a risk which such trading required the trader to assume and the liability to the adverse claim was incurred in the normal course of the conduct of his trade, such expenditure would be deductible see *Strong v Woodfield* (1996) AC 448; *Herald & Weekly Times Ltd v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* ([1992] 48 CLR 113) and *Golder v Great Boulder Proprietary*.

On his appeal to the disciplinary appeals committee a number of the charges were upheld but the suspension was reduced to fines of £50,000. The taxpayer incurred legal fees of £20,246 in connection with those proceedings. At both hearings he was represented by London solicitors who had instructed leading and junior counsel.

The licensing system was of place to regulate the numbers of those who fished and not for the purposes of conducting sophisticated inquiries into whether the use of any particular instrument specified in the licence would be unlawful.

His Lordship did not accept the contention that the works to the weir had in some way made the coops different from those given in the certificate in 1867. That postulated that Dr Haughey would be doing something unlawful if he

was not entitled to use his licensing powers as a means of enforcing the rules of the licensing system to regulate the numbers of those who fished and not for the purposes of conducting sophisticated inquiries.

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£25,000 on offer in competition

Continental cream can land tasty Euro ITF prize

THERE are just 12 days to go before England and Switzerland meet at Wembley to launch Euro 96, the biggest sporting event to be staged in Britain since the 1966 World Cup, and with it comes the chance to win a prize of £25,000 as *The Times*, in association with Winterthur, invites entries to its Euro Interactive Team Football competition.

By selecting 11 players and a manager, entrants will be able to follow the fortunes of their team as it accumulates points throughout the championship. The overall winner will collect £25,000, and there are also four £1,000 prizes for the best team performances in each of the first four sections.

Entrants can choose their teams from some of the most talented players on the Continent. You could, for example, have Jürgen Klinsmann partnered by Alan Shearer in attack. Is David Seaman the most dependable goalkeeper, and would Andrei Kanchelskis, the Russia winger, help your team to take off? The choice is yours, although you must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same country.

Full details of how to play and how to enter are given below. It is also possible to play Euro ITF on the Internet.

PLAY EURO ITF ON THE INTERNET

IT IS easy to play Euro Interactive Team Football on the Internet. Enter a team for just £5, and you can make all your player transfers free on-line. Special screens will allow you to check the performance of your team and individual players.

Internet players are also eligible for special £250 prizes, as well as the prizes in the main competition.

Enter *The Times'* Internet edition home page on

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

and click on to the Euro ITF "Button". You can pay by credit card on-line or, if you prefer, by post. To enter by post you will need to print out an entry form from *The Times'* Internet site and send it to the Euro ITF entry address (details below), with a postal or money order for £5 sterling. In return, you will receive a special PIN number enabling you to enter your team on the site.



In association with
winterthur

On the opposite page, *The Times'* panel of experts has listed the players most likely to play in the European championship finals — only five nations have so far announced their 22-man squads — but, if there are a few players listed who do not eventually appear as members of the 11 parties, and you find that you have chosen one or more for your team, do not worry. Simply use the telephone alteration line, the number for which is given below, to change your team.

ALTERATIONS

You may alter as many players as is necessary, but you may only use the alteration line once to amend a team. If you attempt to use the

alteration line more than once for any one team, that team will revert to its original form.

The line will be open 24 hours a day, from 6am on Tuesday, June 4, until noon on Saturday, June 8. You must, however, make sure that you still do not include more than two individuals from any one country (including the manager), and that you still include one (but no more than one) Rising Star.

The telephone alteration line is:

0891 771238

The number for readers in the Republic of Ireland is 004 4990 200 631.

TRANSFERS

The Euro ITF competition is separated into five transfer sections. For each section, you may transfer up to five individuals (including the manager), but you may only use the transfer facility once for each team. If used more than once, that team will revert to its original form.

During Section 1 (Saturday, June 8 to Tuesday, June 11 inclusive), team selectors will be able to transfer up to (but no more than) five individuals, the transfers becoming effective from the commencement of Section 2. During Section 2 (Thursday, June 13 to Sunday, June 16 inclusive), team selectors may register their next transfers, which will become effective for matches in Section 3, and during Section 3 (Tuesday, June 18 to Wednesday, June 19 inclusive) they may register their transfers which will become effective for matches in Section 4.

During Section 4, which covers the four-quarter-finals, team selectors may now choose up to four individuals from any one country, which will become effective for matches in Section 5, which covers the semi-finals and final.

The transfer line telephone number will be announced in *The Times* shortly.

INFORMATION

Team selectors will be able to transfer up to five individuals from any one country, which will become effective for matches in Section 5, which covers the semi-finals and final.

The transfer line telephone number will be announced in *The Times* shortly.

PRIZES

Prizes for the best performance in each of the first four sections. If there is more than one winner, a tie-break will be applied. If there is still more than one winner, the prizes will be shared.

HOW TO PLAY

How to select a team of 11 players, including one Rising Star, and a manager.

NOTES

GOALKEEPER 2 FULL BACKS

CENTRAL DEFENDERS 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS

WINGERS 1 MANAGER

Managers and the manager must be chosen from the Euro Interactive Team Football category lists (which includes numbered).

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Man

GOALKEEPERS

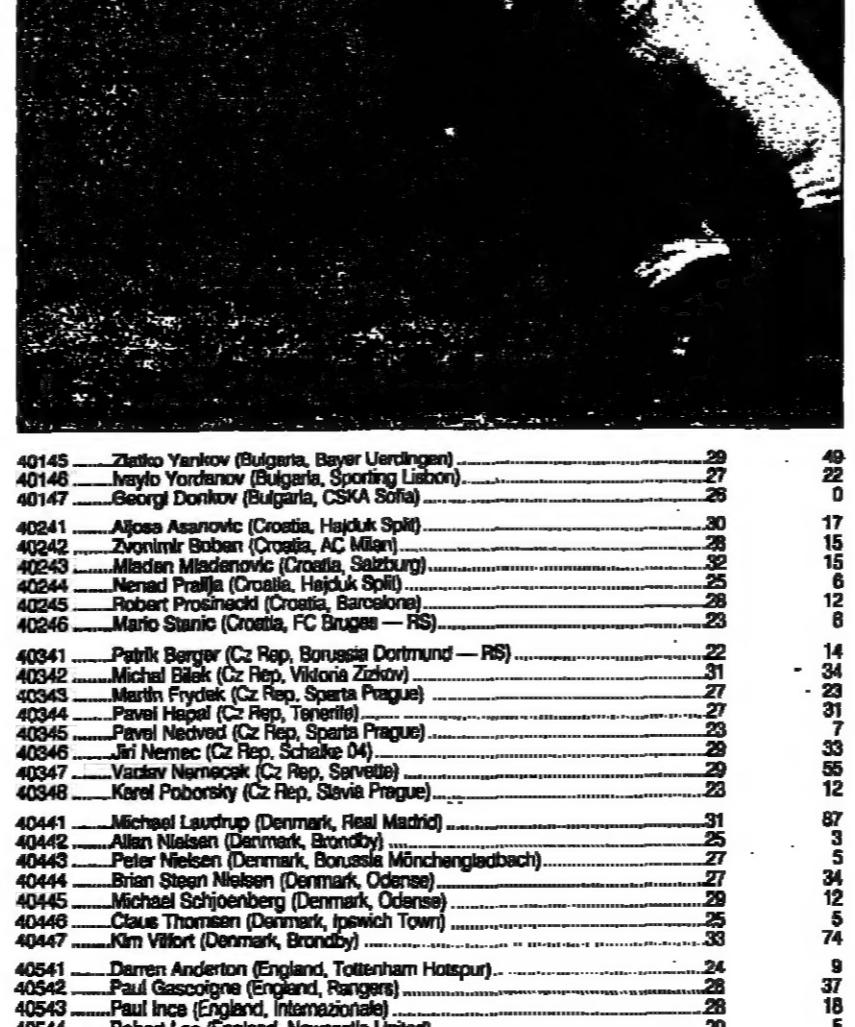
Code	Player (Country/club)	Age	Caps
10101	Borislav Mihailov (Bulgaria, Reading)	23	92
10102	Dimitar Petkov (Bulgaria, CSKA)	23	13
10103	Zdravko Zlatekov (Bulgaria, Steaua Sofia)	25	1
10201	Tomislav Gajic (Croatia, Hajduk Split)	25	7
10202	Mirza Ladic (Croatia, Croatia Zagreb)	25	3
10203	Marjan Mimic (Croatia, Varazdin)	25	2
10301	Petr Kouba (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	27	29
10302	Ludek Miklosko (Cz Rep, West Ham United)	27	45
10303	Pavel Smicer (Cz Rep, Newcastle United)	28	3
10401	Lars Hoegh (Denmark, Odense)	27	8
10402	Mogens Krogh (Denmark, Brondby)	27	5
10403	Peter Schmeichel (Denmark, Manchester United)	29	94
10501	Tim Flowers (England, Blackburn Rovers)	29	7
10502	David Seaman (England, Arsenal)	29	22
10503	Alan Walker (England, Tottenham Hotspur)	24	0
10601	Fabien Barthez (France, Monaco)	24	2
10602	Bernard Lama (France, Paris Saint-Germain)	24	26
10603	Bruno Martini (France, Montpellier)	24	50
10701	Oliver Kahn (Germany, Bayern Munich)	24	3
10702	Stefan Klos (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	26	2
10703	Andreas Koepke (Germany, Eintracht Frankfurt)	24	0
10801	Edo Goey (Holland, Feyenoord)	29	27
10802	Edwin van der Sar (Holland, Ajax)	25	6
10803	Ruud Heij (Holland, Roda JC)	25	0
10901	Luca Bucci (Italy, Parma)	27	3
10902	Angelo Peruzzi (Italy, Juventus)	27	3
10903	Francesco Toldo (Italy, Fiorentina)	37	2
11001	Vitor Baia (Portugal, Porto)	28	40
11002	Alfredo Castro (Portugal, Boavista)	28	1
11003	Rui Correia (Portugal, Braga)	28	1
11004	Paulo Costa (Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	22	0
11101	Florin Alexandru Tene (Romania, Rapid Bucharest)	28	4
11102	Florin Prunea (Romania, Dinamo Bucharest)	30	30
11103	Bogdan Stelza (Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	28	32
11201	Stanislav Charchesov (Russia, FC Tyrol)	32	35
11202	Oleksandr Khramov (Russia, Chelsea)	27	33
11203	Sergii Ovchinnikov (Russia, Lokomotiv Moscow)	25	2
11301	Andy Goram (Scotland, Rangers)	32	35
11302	Jim Leighton (Scotland, Hibernian)	37	73
11303	Nicky Walker (Scotland, Partick Thistle)	33	1
11401	Andoni Zubizarreta (Spain, Valencia)	34	105
11402	Santos Carizares (Spain, Real Madrid)	27	6
11403	José Molina (Spain, Atletico Madrid)	25	1
11501	Stephan Lehmann (Switzerland, St. Gallen)	32	8
11502	Marco Pascolo (Switzerland, Sion)	35	3
11503	Pascal Zuberbuehl (Switzerland, Grasshopper)	25	3
11601	Engin Ipekoglu (Turkey, Fenerbahce)	35	28
11602	Ruslu Reber (Turkey, Fenerbahce)	23	14



Patrick Kluivert, above, of Holland, and Zvonimir Boban, below left, of Croatia, are two of the stars available for your Euro ITF team

DEFENDERS

Code	Player (Country/club)	Age	Caps
20131	Ivan Krivak (Bulgaria, Arhaness)	26	54
20132	Radostin Kishlev (Bulgaria, Netherland Bourges — RS)	21	24
20133	Emil Kremenlev (Bulgaria, Olympique)	26	33
20134	Tzanko Tsvetanov (Bulgaria, Weiden Mannheim)	26	0
20231	Erlin Braljic (Croatia, Bayern Munich)	26	7
20232	Robert Jank (Croatia, Real Betis)	27	18
20233	Nikola Juricic (Croatia, Freiburg)	25	14
20331	Radouan Latja (Cz Rep, Schalke 04)	25	25
20332	Tomaz Lani (Cz Rep, Slavia Prague)	24	1
20333	Tomas Repka (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	22	15
20334	Han Stochoprek (Cz Rep, Slavia Prague)	27	28
20431	Thomas Helveg (Denmark, Udinese)	24	12
20432	Frederik Larsen (Denmark, Sønderborg — RS)	24	11
20433	Jens Rasmussen (Denmark, Brondby)	25	11
20531	Rob Jones (England, Liverpool)	24	8
20532	Andy Johnson (England, Manchester United — RS)	21	19
20533	Phil Neville (England, Manchester United)	19	1
20534	Stuart Pearce (England, Nottingham Forest)	34	94
20631	Joselyn Angloma (France, Torino)	30	32
20632	Elio Di Marco (France, Monaco)	22	20
20633	Patrice Lannier (France, Metz)	25	17
20634	Lilian Thuram (France, Monaco)	24	8
20731	Stefan Reuter (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	29	51
20732	René Schneider (Germany, Rostock)	23	1
20831	Frank de Boer (Holland, Ajax)	26	39
20832	Winston Bogarde (Holland, Ajax)	26	39
20833	Michael Reiziger (Holland, Ajax)	23	2
20931	Luigi Apolloni (Italy, Parma)	23	10
20932	Amadeo Carboni (Italy, Roma)	31	9
20933	Paolo Maldini (Italy, AC Milan)	27	57
20934	Roberto Muzzu (Italy, Parma)	32	7
21031	Fernando Nelson (Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	24	5
21032	Paulinho Santos (Portugal, Porto)	25	11
21033	Manuel Gomes (Portugal, Porto)	25	12
21034	Jose Tavares (Portugal, Benfica)	30	30
21035	Dimes Teixeira (Portugal, Benfica)	27	3
21131	Goran Popovic (Romania, Universitatea Craiova)	22	5
21132	Doru Petrescu (Romania, Craiova)	28	55
21133	Tibor Salymay (Hungary, Cercle Brugge)	26	27
21231	Yuri Kovtun (Russia, Dynamo Moscow)	28	13
21232	Ramiz Mamedov (Russia, Sparta Moscow)	23	7
21233	Tommy Boyd (Scotland, Celtic)	30	33
21234	Craig Burley (Scotland, Celtic)	24	24
21235	Steven Gormley (Scotland, Aberdeen)	23	37
21236	Brian O'Neil (Scotland, Celtic)	23	1
21237	Sergi Barjuan (Spain, Barcelona)	24	18
21238	Alejandro Moreno (Spain, Real Zaragoza)	25	25
21239	Albert Ferrer (Spain, Real Zaragoza)	25	28
21240	Jorge Otero (Spain, Valencia)	33	8
21241	Marc Hotiger (Switzerland, Etoile)	28	53
21242	Yves Quentin (Switzerland, Sion)	26	25
21243	Recep Cetin (Turkey, Besiktas)	30	46



40547	Steve Stone (England, Nottingham Forest)	24	5
40548	Dennis Wise (England, Chelsea)	29	11
40641	Didier Deschamps (France, Juventus)	27	48
40642	Yann Guedioura (France, Paris Saint-Germain)	30	10
40643	Christian Karembeu (France, Sampdoria)	25	14
40644	Sabri Lamouchi (France, Auxerre)	24	3
40645	Corinne Manella (France, Auxerre)	26	11
40646	Zinedine Zidane (France, Bordeaux — RS)	23	10
40741	Mario Basler (Germany, Werder Bremen)	27	16
40742	Marco Bodai (Germany, Werder Bremen)	26	1
40743	Dieter Eilts (Germany, Werder Bremen)	31	14
40744	Steffen Freund (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	28	13
40745	Thomas Häßler (Germany, Karlsruhe)	29	23
40746	Andy Möller (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	28	23
40747	Mehmet Scholl (Germany, Bayern Munich — RS)	25	6
40748	Andreas Thom (Germany, Bayern Munich — RS)	24	15
40749	Christian Ziege (Germany, Bayern Munich)	24	15
40841	Edgar Dostalek (Hungary, Agyar — RS)	23	5
40842	Ronald de Boer (Hungary, Agyar)	25	23
40843	Clarence Seedorf (Holland, Sampdoria)	21	23
40844	Aron Winter (Holland, Lazio)	23	23
40845	Philip Cocu (Holland, PSV Eindhoven)	25	1
40941	Domenico Albertini (Italy, AC Milan)	24	34
40942	Dino Baggio (Italy, Parma)	24	24
40943	Antonio Conte (Italy, Juventus)	26	6
40944	Alessandro Del Piero (Italy, Juventus)	21	21
40945	Andrea Belotti (Italy, Juventus)	20	3
40946	Roberto Donadoni (Italy, AC Milan)	23	13
40947	Diego Fusari (Italy, Lazio)	27	4
40948	Paulo Sousa (Portugal, Benfica)	25	24
41041	Paulo Bentos (Portugal, Benfica)	28	4
41042	Nuno Capucho (Portugal, Guimaraes — RS)	24	1
41043	Rui Costa (Portugal, Fiorentina)	24	21
41044	Oscar Cruz (Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	23	39
41045	João Pinto (Portugal, Barcelona)	23	27
41046	Victor Simões (Portugal, Barcelona)	20	43
41047	Sebastião Pedroso (Portugal, Barcelona)	21	10
41048	Paulo Sousa (Portugal, Benfica)	25	25
41141	Iulian Filipescu (Romania, Steaua Bucharest — RS)	21	2
41142	Ionel Angelescu (Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	20	46
41143	Dorin Mitrea (Romania, Dinamo Bucharest)	30	56
41144	Dorinel Munteanu (Romania, National Bucharest)	26	44
41145	Radu Niculescu (Romania, National Bucharest)	21	6
41146	Nica Panduru (Romania, Benfica)	26	21
41147	Ioan Sabau (Romania, Bragadiru)	28	47
41241	Andrei Kanchikashvili (Russia, Everton)	27	40
41242	Valery Kapiton (Russia, Real Sociedad)	27	27
41243	Alexander Mironov (Russia, Spartak Moscow)	26	30
41244	Andrei Pavlenko (Russia, Spartak Moscow)	26	18
41245	Vladisl		

THE TIMES TODAY

KAMAL KHSHI

HEADLINE

Graduates face £12,000 bill

■ Graduates would have to pay back at least £12,000 for the cost of their university education over 20 years under a Labour government, it will be announced today.

The scheme, which marks the end of Labour's commitment to free higher education, would replace the existing hybrid system of grants, loans and parental contributions. Tuition fees would remain free. Both main parties have now accepted that the present system cannot continue Page 1

Sexual harassment case WPC to appeal

■ A policewoman who claimed that sexual harassment by her fellow officers brought her close to a nervous breakdown lost her case yesterday against three colleagues and their force. WPC Karen Wade, of West Yorkshire police, said immediately after the case that she would appeal Page 1

Archbishop named

The Bishop of Salford, the Right Rev Patrick Kelly, is to be named by today as the new Archbishop of Liverpool. He is the favourite of the Roman Catholic Church's conservative wing Page 1

Nolan inquiry call

Labour last night demanded that the Nolan Commission on standards in public life investigate funding of the Conservative Party as the dispute intensified over an alleged donation from a Serbian businessman Pages 2, 17

Air crash heroine

A nurse who staggered from the wreckage of an air ambulance, raised the alarm and returned to rescue an injured doctor was praised as a heroine Page 3

Two-beer limit

British tourists risk being fined or jailed for drink-driving this summer unaware that the French alcohol limit has been cut Page 5

Rooms with a view

Marble Arch, one of the most famous addresses in London, may soon go on the market after a refurbishment Pages 6, 17

Tribal warfare

Wolfgang B is a happy man. His team Cologne has just escaped relegation and in a few weeks he will be having the fight of his life outside some British pub. "It should be good," he says. "I've always liked Britain." Page 3

Forsyth faces the music

■ Rock music fans may be about to present Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, with the most difficult decision of his career. Eighty thousand tickets have been sold for two Oasis concerts in a conservation area on Loch Lomondside before planning permission has been granted. The final go-head could rest with Mr Forsyth Page 3



Supporters of India's Hindu Bharatiya Janata party at a weekend victory rally in New Delhi addressed by the Prime Minister

Life in the fast lane

To describe Nevada's Silver State Classic Challenge as a race is misleading. It is not so much a competitive event as an excuse to drive as fast as one dares. Page 10

Likud funds vote

Binjamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud Party, has pledged to switch funds earmarked for the embryonic Palestinian Authority to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if he wins the May 29 election Page 11

Peace pledge

Les Teng-Hui, the President of Taiwan, has pledged to "embark on a journey of peace to mainland China" in his inaugural address. His words, will, however, ring hollow in Peking Page 11

Iraq oil deal

Iraq has accepted a United Nations "oil-for-food" deal that will allow it to sell oil on world markets for the first time since the Gulf War Page 12

Courting favour

Grigori Yavlinsky, a young, charismatic and popular Russian politician, has manoeuvred himself into the role of kingmaker in the presidential elections Page 13

Estate of Grace

Items owned by the late Princess Grace of Monaco may be auctioned for charity. Her son, Albert, visiting Manhattan, is said to be sympathetic to a sale. Page 13

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Economic woes: European growth prospects have been revised down sharply by the OECD, even without taking account of stringent new budget deficit-cutting measures aimed at meeting the criteria for a single currency Page 25

Halftrack premium: Investors in Railtrack enjoyed substantial profits on the first day of share trading Page 25

BA savings: British Airways accompanied record pre-tax profits of £885 million with plans to seek a further £1 billion of efficiency savings by the year 2000 Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 11.4 points to 3,778.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index climbed from 84.4 to 84.5 Page 28

Rugby union: Richmond, who have already signed five internationals, added Simon Mason, the Ireland full back, to their ranks Page 46

Boating: Lennox Lewis is likely to meet Derren Riddick Bowe in September in Las Vegas and then challenge for the world title in December or early in the new year Page 48

Painting at heart: Looking at a work by Gillian Ayres, it soon becomes clear that this artist's chosen subject is painting itself, as her London show reveals Page 33

Dancing high: The American choreographer Trisha Brown launches her British tour at the Brighton Festival with a fascinating programme that mixes new with old Page 34

Cannes delights: Some film critics have complained that the standard of entries in this year's Cannes Film Festival was too high. But Geoff Brown is not among them. Page 35

IN THE TIMES

FASHION Millinery returns: why getting ahead means getting a hat again Page 15

INTERFACE Sega's £45 million indoor theme park in central London, plus: 15 cordless phones worth £230 each to be won Page 20



ARTS

French master: The glory of Degas is revealed in a new exhibition at the National Gallery which focuses on the later, and less lauded, years of his career Page 33

Painter at heart: Looking at a work by Gillian Ayres, it soon becomes clear that this artist's chosen subject is painting itself, as her London show reveals Page 33

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FEATURES

A "leetle" fable: Antoine de Caunes, the cute half of the Eurotrash duo, talks to Mary Riddick about his new television show and why he is impossible to live with Page 15

Happy families: Giles Coren, son of Alan and brother of Victoria, writes about nepotism Page 15

BODY AND MIND

Dangerous driving: As the police investigate an apparent case of road-rage murder, an AA survey sheds some light on why drivers give way to violence Page 14

Quick fix: Joseph Connolly visits the celebrated Clinique La Prairie in Switzerland to find out why so many famous people swear by its rejuvenating injections Page 14

LAW

A matter of respect: The President of the Law Society has asked J. Walter Thompson to mount an advertising campaign to improve lawyers' reputations Page 37

Waiting for the call: The Bar Council wants to extend the time barristers wait to be called to the Bar. Not a good idea, says one QC. Page 39

THE PAPER

President Clinton had the opportunity to fashion a strong policy against anti-personnel mines, and he lost it. The new policy ... ends up legitimizing mines as a specific weapon — *The Washington Post* Page 17

Defamation day

Parliamentary privilege is a sacred right of the whole House. An individual MP should not be able to waive it simply in order to go with trips to Paris, questions to the House or the registration of members' interests Page 11

Keep it clean

For the sake of the state, and its own reputation, the Tory party must work harder to put an end to the suspicion Page 11

Viewing by appointment

No arch ever sleeps. But no-one in Marble Arch could ever sleep Page 11

WILHELM NOLLING

If the German Government fails to take a rigorous view of the EMU criteria, those of us who oppose an overhasty union are certain to launch lawsuits in the court that will re-examine the procedure Page 11

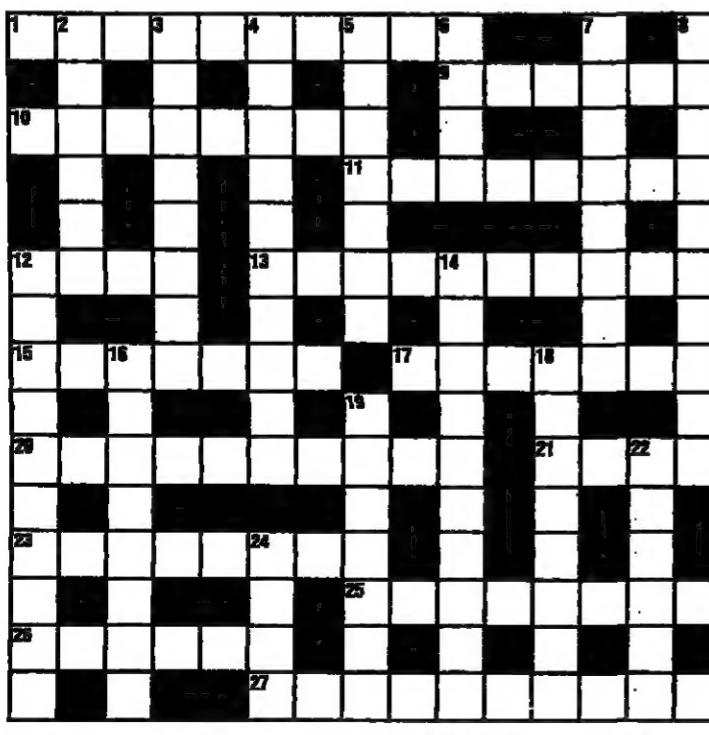
LIBBY PURVES

Dwellers on this treacherous rock need to be ready for anything, and a deep instinct tells me that the day we cannot cope with that is the day of our final decadence Page 11

Jon Pertwee, actor; Simon Weinstock, director of GEC; George Malcolm Thomson, author, aside to Lord Beaverbrook and chief leader writer for the Daily Express Page 11

Reform for forensic testing; science in British Library; Liberal's vote on EEC; Mohamed Al Fayed and the Liberal Democrats; charitable bequests; witness support; hymns and anthems; Ten Tors trek Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,173



For the latest regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0897 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London 701
South East 702
Devon, Cornwall & W. C. 703
West Country 704
Wales, Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester 705
Berkshire, Oxford, Buckinghamshire 706
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire 707
West Mid & Shropshire & Gwent 708
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester 709
Central Midlands 710
Lincs & Humberside 711
Dyfed & Powys 712
Gwent, Monmouth & Gower 713
New England 714
W. S. Yorks & Dales 715
N. E. England 716
Cumbria & Lake District 717
SW Scotland 718
W Central Scotland 719
E Central Scotland 720
Grenfels & E Highlands 721
NW Scotland 722
Orkney, Shetland 723
Northern Ireland 724
AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Holbeach, Lincolnshire, 17°C (62°F); lowest day max: Bala, Snowdonia, 9.5°C (49°F); highest rainfall: Sutton Bonington, Leicestershire, 100mm (3.9in).

AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

CROSSWORD

25 Painful separation in Bible, with soul in torment (8).

26 Purchasing unit for some wartime Scud offensive (6).

27 Pirate fighting English for some treasure? (10).

DOWN

2 The knock in calling for attention is being enthusiastic (6).

3 Unappealing character, as Learner never was? (8).

4 Foes routed in a melee without any slip-up (4-6).

5 Pictures river going over agricultural produce (7).

6 Light-coloured coin bearing head of ruler (4).

7 Old woman joining tribe before a hard Passover reading (8).

8 They're employed to fine up warm bread from oven (5-5).

9 Carry representative and exuberant expressions of Spanish native art (5,5).

10 What cobblers uses very little with no time to spare? (4-6).

11 Turn cheek for protection against a blow (4-4).

12 China was transported in swift cutter (3).

13 Female's losing head about love - the culprit? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,172

MALTESE PADDLER

EESRBOEER

GROUP SNOWGOOSE

ANEE MGTID

PRIORITY HONORARY

HNAI NNR

OCEAN ANTIPODES

NTNOE A

EMBROIDER REBEL

OOLYERER

CAULDRON ONIONS

ONYC GNAI

PICNICKER INDIA

SENKE UAE D

ENRAGED BILOBIONIEV

Times Two Crossword, page 48

FORECAST

25 Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Ireland: sunny spells and showers heavy and prolonged, perhaps with thunder. During the afternoon and evening it will become drier from the west with some evening sunshine, but thickening cloud will bring rain to the west. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have bright or sunny spells and some heavy or prolonged showers. It should become drier and brighter from